

Hafa Adai!

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POLL RESULTS

Do you believe CNMI voters are now sophisticated and educated enough on land issues to act on the retention or repeal of Article 12 by 2012?

| | |
|-----------|----|
| YES | 50 |
| NO | 78 |
| UNDECIDED | 8 |

Sunday, June 26, 2011

INSIDE



Mural Project

Harrison M. Smith finishes his project—a mural on a tennis practice wall.

LOCAL...Page 6



Train Accident

Six are confirmed dead after a semi-truck slams into an Amtrak train in Nevada.

NATION...Page 15



Gay Pageant

Twenty-three-year old Trinity Hufana of Guam is the first Queen Marianas.

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DPS stops search operation with volunteers. **PAGE 2**
Fitial meets with Cabinet, directors on GOP membership. **PAGE 3**

Chamber starts work on prevailing wage survey

» **Fitial administration also wants to conduct own study**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce has started work on a long-awaited prevailing wage survey which, among other things, is needed by CNMI employers to support their applications for U.S. work visas for their foreign employees.

CONTACT INFO

Saipan Chamber of Commerce

- Call: 233-7150/233-7152
- Email: coordinator@saipan-chamber.com

But the Fitial administration said it will be commissioning its own wage study.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the largest business organization in the CNMI with some 150 members, has combined with numerous business organizations and groups for the survey.

It will contract with a firm specializing in extensive services in wage and salary management and prevailing wage surveys.

Saipan Tribune learned that the contract will be awarded to the Guam Employers Council, and the contract alone could cost anywhere between \$10,000

See **CHAMBER** on **Page 4**



EYESORE ALERT!

Piles of trash that include several used tires, plastic water containers and other garbage are turning this area into an illegal dump. The site is near the start of the trail going to Hidden Beach, which is located right after Kingfisher Golf Course in the eastern coast of Saipan. The trail leading to the beach is also littered with all kinds of trash.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

'Congress can't ignore new GAO data'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tourism employers will continue to cut regular work hours and freeze hiring as well as start laying off employees by early 2012 as a result of the annual 50-cent increase in the CNMI's minimum wage, a U.S. Government Accountability Office report released on Thursday says.

By 2016 when the CNMI's minimum wage is supposed to reach \$7.25 an hour, 95 percent of workers in the tourism in-

dustry would have been affected.

GAO data are based on responses to questionnaires, discussion groups and interviews in 2010, among other things.

For employers, the minimum wage hikes impose additional costs at a time when multiple factors are making it difficult to operate. Employers and employees also have mixed feelings about the minimum wage increases.

GAO is the investigative arm of the U.S. Congress.

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OIG questions costs, awards in PSS' AmeriCorps program

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A U.S. Office of Inspector General report has uncovered deficiencies and violations in the Public School System's operation of the federally funded AmeriCorps program.

In a 48-page document issued on June 6, the OIG Corporation for Na-

tional and Community Service report questioned \$68,288 in federal-share costs and \$13,678 in education awards after finding a lack of supporting documents and justification from the program administrator. The report seeks to recover these amounts.

The CNMI AmeriCorps program is an AmeriCorps State program funded

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Local

DPS stops Luhks search operation with volunteers

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety has stopped conducting search operations with volunteers over the weekend even as "Operation Hope" continues to be frustrated by the lack of leads in the disappearance of sisters Faloma and Maleina Luhk.

"There's no new updates from DPS at this time," press secretary Angel Demapan told *Saipan Tribune* Sunday night.

Demapan said DPS had already conducted search operations with hundreds of volunteers in previous weeks in an

effort to comb the island to locate the missing Luhk sisters.

"Given that such shoulder-to-shoulder operations did not turn up the results we had hoped for, the department must now recalibrate its efforts in order to function with its available resources," he said.

He said the Fital administration and DPS assures the public that authorities will continue to work on the case without leaving any leads behind. He said DPS continues to investigate all persons and places of interest.

However, Demapan said, to prevent jeopardizing ongoing investigations, details cannot be

made public at this time.

"Nonetheless, we continue to encourage anyone with information that may shed some light in this case to contact the police or the Crime Stoppers' hotline," he added.

Meanwhile, Demapan confirmed the existence of the Liyan Falngun Hanom Cave in Marpi but he did not disclose whether searchers had already checked that cave.

David Weary, a geologist from the U.S. Geological Survey, on Friday cautioned searchers from entering the Liyan Falngun Hanom Cave because of its high levels of

carbon dioxide gas.

In another e-mail to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, Weary suggested not publishing specific directions to this cave as the caving community and federal agencies discourage the publication of exact cave locations.

"This is to keep untrained people from going to caves and hurting themselves and/or the organisms that live in caves," Weary said.

The geologist said Liyan Falngun Hanom Cave, which is located on a private property, may also be known as "Mermaid Cave" as it has a large wooden carving of a mermaid

outside of its entrance.

"The cave is reported to extend about 900 feet southeastward from the entrance. It will be completely dark after a few hundred feet or so in. I don't know what the depth is, but probably comparable to Kalabera Cave," Weary said.

The geologist, who visited Saipan in 2006, warned searchers about Hanom Cave, known by cavers simply as "Bad Air Cave," after reading *Saipan Tribune's* story about the search being conducted by fire personnel at the Kalabera Cave on Wednesday.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Elbert B. Quitugua, right, says the rosary during a prayer and candlelight vigil for his two missing granddaughters, Faloma and Maleina Q. Luhk, at the Santa Soledad Parish in Kagman on Saturday, a month after the girls' disappearance on May 25.

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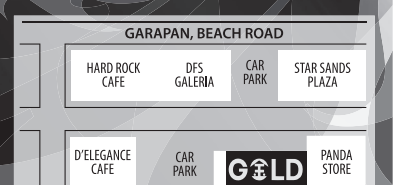
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Fitial meets with Cabinet, directors on GOP membership

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial held a private gathering with his Cabinet secretaries and directors at his residence in Gualo Rai on Saturday night wherein sources said the governor reiterated his request for them to join or rejoin him in the Republican Party.

The governor, in a chance interview with *Saipan Tribune* a few hours before the gathering, said the event was a "private event" and not an official government function.

Many of the governor's Cabinet secretaries and directors were at the event to which he had also invited his Blue Ribbon Committee chair Oscar Rasa and other guests.

The governor's Blue Ribbon Committee seeks to merge the Covenant and Republican Parties, but the governor prefers to call it "transitioning" the Covenant Party to the Republican Party.

Fitial and Rasa spoke before the crowd about the Republican Party's decision early this year to re-accept the governor. They also talked about the need to have a sitting Republican governor, so that the CNMI will get more assistance from the federal government and considering that the U.S. Congress is dominated by Republicans.

Fitial, according to sources, reiterated that he respects the decisions of those who have not joined him with the Republican Party and asked that they respect his decision too.

Rasa, when asked for comment, said the governor reiterated his support for Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos's candidacy in the next

gubernatorial election.

But Rasa said the governor at this time said he will support Inos whether the latter stays with the Covenant Party or move to the Republican Party.

Two Fridays ago, Fitial told reporters at a Blue Ribbon Committee meeting that he will support Inos only when he also moves to the Republican Party.

During Saturday night's event at Fitial's residence, former governor Juan N. Babauta said the Republican Party by-laws require that members support their party members during elections, sources said.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday that, "given that the gathering was a private function, my office has no comment on the matter."

Among those who were at the governor's residence, according to sources, were: Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez, Public Safety Commissioner Ray Mafnas, Labor Secretary Gil San Nicolas, Public Works Secretary Martin Sablan, Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Melvin Faisao, Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Abe Malae, Personnel director Isidro Serman, Emergency Management Office director Joaquin Omar, senior policy adviser Dr. Jon Joyner, press secretary Demapan, special assistant for disability policy and programs Thomas J. Camacho, lieutenant

governor's legal counsel Teresa Kim, acting Lands and Natural Resources secretary Jack Songsong and his predecessor, Dr. Ignacio Dela Cruz.

There were others present at the event, sources said.

According to sources, email invitations to the private gathering were sent out last week.

Fitial rejoined the Republican Party in January this year, 10 years after forming the Covenant Party in 2001 for his gubernatorial bid. He won on his second try in 2005.

Meanwhile, his Blue Ribbon Committee said it has 1,077 signed petitions so far gathered to join the Republican Party; some 300 more are willing to join.



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Pacific population reaches 10 million

HONOLULU, Hawaii—The Pacific Islands region will house an additional 188,000 people this month making Oceania's total population reach a ma-

nor milestone of 10 million.

According to Radio Australia, the increase in population will put more pressure on the region's limited natural

and economic resources.

Dr. Gerald Haberkorn, manager of the Statistics for Development Program at the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, said that at the current rate of growth, the region will host 20 mil-

lion in 35 years.

Haberkorn told Radio Australia that there is no quick fix to mass migrations destined for larger Pacific countries like Australia, New Zealand, and Guam. Numbers will con-

tinue to rise naturally because as he says, there is no stop to the "growth momentum." People and number of births will multiply every year because it's a natural process. (*Pacific Islands Report*)

OIG

From Page 1

by the corporation. It recruits students from public and private schools to provide tutoring and service learning activities to public elementary and middle school students, under the guidance of site supervisors. Participants who complete the program's terms of service become eligible for education awards.

The OIG report had nine findings, a majority of which cited PSS' failure to comply with grant requirements and standards.

In one instance, PSS did not conduct a criminal history check for one of its member who was over 18 years old, resulting in the issuance of a questionable \$3,345 in living allowance and benefits. The program requires the conduct of criminal history checks and searches for all members above 18 years old.

PSS also failed to provide proper documentation to support one member's citizenship; the questioned cost amounted to \$4,275.

OIG also questioned \$8,242 in "unallocable costs" after PSS charged certain expenses to the wrong program year grant fund. Although PSS later gave a copy of the journal voucher that showed the transactions were moved from one award to another, the report states that PSS did not provide any document to

demonstrate that it was adjusted.

'Unauthorized travel expenses'

The report also questioned unallocable costs of \$11,770 charged by PSS for airfare and per diem for trips taken in October 2009.

It showed that the AmeriCorps program director's trip to Denver and Washington, D.C. cost \$2,638 in per diem and \$3,560 in airfare; \$3,560 airfare for a federal grant officer's trip to Denver, Washington, and Honolulu; and \$2,012 per diem for a trip an assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction took to Denver, Washington, and Honolulu.

"These expenses were not allocable to the AmeriCorps award because the only portion of the trip that was AmeriCorps-related was a half-day meeting with the corporation's program officer. In addition, this trip was not included in the approved grant budget," states the report.

The OIG pointed out that the D.C. trip was to meet officials of the U.S. departments of Education and Interior and the CNMI congressional delegate, while the Denver trip was to meet with an organization about its growth model and peer review process. The Honolulu trip, on the other hand, was to meet with a private organization on a variety of education issues.

Some \$3,229 in travel expenses was also claimed by PSS for a board mem-

ber who attended the National Service Learning Conference in Nashville. An additional \$1,537 related to this trip was also being claimed without supporting documents.

PSS also failed to provide supporting documents for 21 of 88 sampled transactions, totaling \$21,395 in one account and \$1,127 in another grant account.

Unsupported documents

PSS claimed \$8,940 for the salary of a site supervisor in January 2009 for work performed in December 2008. However, submitted documents only justified \$6,000, resulting in a questionable \$2,940 undocumented salary.

Another \$2,363 education award was also questioned after it was determined that the activities performed by a member were inconsistent with what the grant provided.

A total of \$8,952 was also questioned for prorated education awards provided to members in 2010.

Discrepancies in the timesheet of three members were also discovered.

PSS response

In its responses to the findings, PSS said that it had transferred questioned travel costs to a non-AmeriCorps account. However, it failed to provide other supporting documents for unsupported other costs, saying the files were transferred to another building

departments of Commerce and Labor "to collaborate its efforts with the CNMI to allow businesses to utilize vital wage survey results in processing petitions for foreign labor employment visas in the CNMI."

The copyrighted survey report will be made available to anyone that participates in the survey at no cost, and will be presented to the CNMI government when completed, the group said.

The Chamber will host a number of presentations before and during the survey sampling and polling of businesses and offices.

Presentations will begin this week at association meetings.

The Chamber said those already committing their participation in the survey include the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Marianas Visitors Authority, the Society of Human Resources Management, the Rotary Club of Saipan, the Saipan Contractors Association, the Bankers Association, members of the CNMI Bar Association, medical clinicians, the Nurse's Association, private and public schools, the Commonwealth Auto Dealers Association, the Accountancy Board, the Insurance Association, local media groups, engineers and oil companies, shipping and transportation companies, golf courses, tour agents and operators, trade groups, and various foreign organizations.

The Chamber said it will introduce the prevailing wage contractor at its July general membership meeting and host a public presentation at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

For inquiries about participation in the survey, the public should contact the Saipan Chamber of Commerce at 233-7150/233-7152, or email coordinator@saipanchamber.com.

CHAMBER

From Page 1

and \$15,000.

The whole survey project could cost some \$20,000, inclusive of the prevailing wage survey contract with the Guam Employers Council, said Chamber executive director Richard Pierce.

Douglas Brennan, president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, said in a statement that they are "overwhelmed with the response to conducting this badly needed survey."

"We also appreciate the efforts of all those organizations that have volunteered to help with the work so we can help each other prepare for the changing challenges associated with foreign labor under federal authority," Brennan said.

Pierce, when asked for further information, said the Chamber is now preparing the directory of participants.

"SCC has had contact with all the organizations whose membership will participate. SCC has been in contact with U.S. Labor in San Francisco and Washington, D.C. about the survey and its methodology," he told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

The survey will provide valuable data for the process of determining prevailing wage rates for individual job classifications, while petitioning for foreign labor work visas under the new requirements of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and the U.S. Department of Labor's Foreign Labor Certification Office, Chamber said.

The prevailing wage is different from—and is generally higher than—the minimum wage, which is currently \$5.05 an hour in the CNMI.

Without a CNMI prevailing wage survey, CNMI employers will be forced to pay the rates similar to those of other U.S. states and territories that

are much higher and not reflective of the conditions in the local economy.

Many CNMI employers have long been seeking clarification on whose responsibility it is to conduct prevailing wage surveys that they need to apply for H visas for their foreign workers.

The Chamber's survey work comes some 19 months since the federal government took control of CNMI immigration.

'The more, the better'

While he is not aware of the specifics of the survey the Chamber is planning, press secretary Angel Demapan said "the government will be commissioning its own prevailing wage study to ensure that the end results are fair and impartial."

"It is the position of the administration that such a survey be spearheaded by the government," he said.

Early this year, the CNMI Department of Labor said it has been working in the last two years to put in place capability to do prevailing wage surveys.

It said once federal funding is applied for and approved, it can start accepting requests for surveys from businesses that need them.

This is based on Labor's 2010 annual report to members of the House and Senate.

Pierce said the "more surveys done, the better."

"And the sooner the better," he said.

Pierce said as far as being fair and impartial, "it is the CNMI business community itself that the CNMI government would need to survey."

"We have always intended to collaborate with the CNMI government, and that is still our intention," he added.

Discussions

In a statement, the Chamber said it has discussed the project with the CNMI's

CONGRESS

From Page 1

Douglas Brennan, president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, said, "The U.S. Congress certainly can't ignore GAO's new data now."

Brennan, in a statement, cited a 2008 GAO report that it seemed likely that the CNMI's existing economic decline would be made worse and that the CNMI population would continue to decline.

"Then why did the U.S. Congress implement four successive increases in minimum wage rates knowing full well the effects GAO predicted would likely occur?" Brennan asked.

He said this is an example of "when an economy moves from being nearly self-sustaining to that of an essentially dependent state."

GAO, through a series of reports, has documented the rise and fall of an economy, he added.

"It is not what the GAO report says. It's actually anti-climactic. It is about what GAO-11-427 demands of the U.S. Congress. Congress mandated GAO to report, and if Congress is responsible, and is not 'cavalier' in implementing these increases as sponsors of the bill maintained, then what will they do to address their part in this impact GAO reports?" Brennan said.

GAO is required to report in 2010, 2011, 2013 and biennially thereafter on the impact of the minimum wage increases.

GAO's latest report, titled "American Samoa and CNMI: Employment, earnings and status of key industries since minimum wage increases began," updates the 2010 report.

In the CNMI, 12 of 14 employers completed the GAO survey questionnaires but one was confirmed closed so its responses were not counted in the final un-weighted response rate of 92 percent.

In all, CNMI questionnaire respondents provided hourly wage data on a total of 1,576 workers as of June 2010.

Hotel respondents alone represented about 48 percent of workers in the CNMI accommodation industry.

The Chamber, in a statement, said it finds the GAO report essentially accurate in measuring impact the minimum wage increases brought about by U.S. Public Law 110-28 since 2008.

Brennan said the report gives definition to the impact a 67-percent increase in minimum wage rates since 2008 has had on the local economy.

"The corresponding escalated costs of doing business through those minimum wage increases, with increased utility, shipping and oil costs, has affected the number of jobs, consumer pricing, delivery of public services and the standard of living we took for granted not that long ago. GAO illustrates this well," he said.

The Chamber also notes that although GAO states that "recent economic declines in both areas reflect the closure of one of two tuna canneries in American Samoa and the departure of the garment industry in the CNMI," it believes there's an understatement in reporting the very real impact those minimum wage increases played upon the resulting elimination of an entire industry on Saipan.

"While GAO properly notes an effect changes in world trade agreements had upon the industry, the actual impact of those minimum wage increases are ignored when one considers apparel operations remained until into 2009. It was increased wage rates that drove the industry out of Saipan, not WTO changes. The elimination of that industry has had the single largest negative effect on the CNMI economy, the GAO reports, and SCC agrees," it said.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is the largest business organization in the CNMI with some 150 members.

It also agrees when GAO reports that local economies differ from the U.S. economy in a number of ways, including that the percentage of workers paid the minimum wage is much higher than in the U.S. 50 states.

"SCC says the greatest loss to the local economy has been felt with the exodus of those minimum wage earners departing since the loss of an industry, and the downturn in the CNMI's only remaining industry, tourism," it added.

Inflation-adjusted earnings of minimum wage workers who retained their jobs and work hours rose by 25 percent from 2006 to 2009, even as CNMI employment fell by 35 percent mainly because of the demise of the garment industry and tourism decline, the report says.

A copy of the 142-page June 23 report is available on the GAO website at <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d11427.pdf>.

PSS approves 5 new classrooms for Garapan school

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The Public School System has approved the construction of new classrooms for Garapan Elementary School and issued Friday an RFP, or request for proposal, for the long-sought project.

PSS federal programs officer Tim Thornburgh said Friday that five new classrooms would be built on the campus to accommo-

date all enrollees in Garapan.

For many years, GES' kindergarten students have been holding classes in vacant MIHA housing units at the back of the school—a setup that has been criticized because of security concerns for students.

Thornburgh disclosed that the five new classrooms will be built in the second story of an existing building on campus. Once completed, upper graders

occupying the first floor classrooms would be moved to the new rooms, while kindergarten students will take over the building's first floor.

The project's estimated cost is \$800,000, which will come from two funding sources: legislative appropriation and interest income from the \$15 million general obligation bond issued in 1998.

Thornburgh refused to discuss further details of the project

because of the ongoing bidding process. However, he expects the new classrooms to be operational before end of the next school year.

"GES is our largest elementary school and is really crowded. We need these additional classrooms to be able to place all our kids inside the school campus," said Thornburgh.

GES was home to 830 kindergarten to sixth grade students last school year. Its enrollment is expected to increase this new school year, which begins in August.

Saipan Tribune learned that the five new classrooms are only a part of the 20 more classrooms that PSS wants to build for kindergarten students.

Since last school year, PSS has been approved to conduct full-day kindergarten classes to address the hundreds of children on its waiting list. However, due to the lack of classrooms, only a few schools have implemented the full-day service.

According to Thornburgh, the project has been on the table for more than two years but has been delayed due to the lack of funding.

Hearing set on partial suspension of interisland medical referrals

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

The Rota and Tinian Legislative Delegations will hold a joint hearing this Thursday on the suspension of government-paid Rota and Tinian patients' trips to Saipan to receive follow-ups, checkups, and other non-emergency medical services at the Commonwealth Health Center.

For several weeks now, patients from Rota and Tinian have had to pay for their own airfare coming to Saipan to avail of medical services at CHC, according to Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota), chairman of

the Rota Legislative Delegation.

He said those who cannot afford to pay for their own airfare opt to just remain on Rota and Tinian and forego medical checkups or follow-ups.

Ayuyu said there's no telling whether these patients could be reimbursed for airfare expenses.

Rota and Tinian patients, however, once they get to CHC, get the medical care they need.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said the problem with patients holding back on medical trips because they cannot afford to pay for their own airfare is that their medical conditions could worsen by foregoing checkups or follow-ups.

"And when it gets worse, it becomes an emergency. Then the government has to really use the helicopter to send them to Saipan, and that's more costly than paying for their trip to Saipan and get checked at CHC," Manglona said.

The senators said it costs \$219 per patient to travel back and forth between Rota and Saipan, and \$84 between Tinian and Saipan.

Manglona said the same types of services provided to Saipan patients should also be provided to Rota and Tinian patients.

"It's a central government obligation to provide the same medical service to all patients," he said.

The public hearing will be held on Thursday, June 30, at 10am in the Senate chamber on Capital Hill.

Kagman High to open Freshmen Academy in new school year

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Starting this school year in August, Kagman High School will be opening a "Freshmen Academy" to help first year students transition to a high school environment.

Kagman High principal Alfred Ada said Friday that the academy will be the first to be offered in a public high school on island.

Ada said the school's high discipline referral rate is the main reason for creating the new program.

"In the last three school years, we recorded a high discipline referral rates and most of the students who failed in their academics are freshmen enrollees. We need to implement this

program because our data speak that we need to do something for our freshmen students," Ada told *Saipan Tribune*.

This new school year, Kagman High is expecting over 140 new students—a slight decrease from previous enrollments of freshmen students that usually go up to 200.

Ada refused to disclose the school's discipline referral and failure rates, saying the school is now addressing the problem.

"We need to help students by preparing them for the high school environment as well as the curriculum for them. We believe that the high failure rating in classes among freshmen was also a result of not communicating expectations," said Ada.

The Freshmen Academy will

offer sessions that would help build the character of students. It is separate from required classes offered for the school year. Ada said the school is finalizing the schedule and all details of the program to ensure its smooth opening.

Besides the academy, Kagman High will also expand its advanced placement courses. It will offer students the following new AP subjects: literature, language composition, environmental science, U.S. history, calculus, and U.S. government. The syllabus for AP program has to be certified by the national college board.

Students who complete a number of these courses in high school may be exempted from taking pre-requisite subjects in college.

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Life scout finishes mural project on AMP tennis practice wall



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Life Scout Harrison M. Smith, third from right, is joined by Park Ranger Nancy Kelchner of the National Park Services, Jess Tuengel of Ace Hardware, scout master Val Welch of Troop 913, and other scouts after presenting the environmental mural at the American Memorial Park Tennis Court last Saturday. The mural is Smith's Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Life Scout Harrison M. Smith of Troop 913 has finished his Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project—a mural painted on the tennis practice wall of the American Memorial Park.

Smith, a sophomore at the Saipan International School, presented the mural depicting the island's abundant and precious coral reef, in a ceremony on Saturday.

The project's completion signals the culmination of an Eagle Scout candidate's leadership training to attain the highest rank in the Boy Scouting program of the Boy Scouts of America.

Smith was joined by CNMI Boy Scouts island director Cal Reyes, Troop 913 scout master Val Welch, and other scouts in presenting the mural to Park Ranger Nancy Kelchner of the National Park Services.

He also presented certificates of appreciation to Kelchner and his major sponsors: Ace Hardware and Sherwin Williams, which helped him accomplish his project through in-kind donations.

Two gallons of primer, two gallons of sealant, and 38 quarts of paint were used to complete the project.

"It was a long process but I'm glad that's finally over because I want everybody to be able to see this," said the son of F. Matthew and Christina Smith.

The younger Smith said it took about a week to complete the mural. He said the National Park Services power washed the wall and brought in scaffolding for the 26 community members who helped paint the wall.

"We primed it, we put up the black lines, we painted the colors, and we sealed it," he recounted.

Smith, 16, disclosed that the

final painting slightly deviated from his original design. These small changes, he said, include the additional dolphin, the different colors of the coral, and the small island in the corner.

For Smith, the best part of the project was painting the turtle, which he described as "really fun." The most challenging, he noted, was taking the design and putting it on the actual wall.

"You have to get the proportions correct. If you made something too big, then nothing else would fit," he explained.

Smith believes the mural would mean a lot to the community because of the message it puts across. "I just want them to be able to think about how the reef is part of our way of living. If we destroy the reef, our island isn't going to be as beautiful," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Kelchner, in an interview, said the project turned out to be an excellent educational tool.

"Not only has a student and boy scout originated the idea but he also planned the project and made sure that the project came to fruition. That's a lot for a teenager," she said.

Kelchner added that the mural sends two messages: to protect the health of the island's coral reef and not to underestimate the ideas of young minds.

"It goes to show that young folks have great potential. Their ideas shouldn't be discounted by adults. They should be heard," she said.

Smith urged other scouts to do something they love to do when coming up with their own Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project, the way he did.

"If you're doing something you don't like, then you're not going to be as enthusiastic about it... But if you're doing something you like, then you'll have more fun doing it and you'll be able to like your actual project more," he said.



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CLARISSA V. DAVID

Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan, fourth from left, leads government officials and guests in the ribbon cutting ceremony for the newly installed children's playground at the Susupe Regional Beach Park on Friday. The park's latest feature is originally the third phase of the rehabilitation efforts of Tan Holdings for the park it adopted since 2008.

Susupe Beach Park gets a new children's playground

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Community members who visit the Susupe Regional Beach Park will have another reason to have more fun at the park with its latest feature—a children's playground.

The playground—which includes a slide, a see-saw, swing set, and monkey bars—was unveiled Friday in a ceremony organized by Tan Holdings, which adopted the park and placed it under its care three years ago.

Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan led government officials and guests in the ribbon cutting, marking the completion of the second phase of the company's efforts to rehabilitate the park.

Prior to the ceremony, some 30 executives of Tan Holdings were already at the park as early as 7am to take part in the general cleaning of the grounds and painting of the concrete slabs.

In an interview, Tan emphasized that the corporation's adoption of the Susupe Regional Beach Park in 2008 was not a one-time deal.

"Our message is that we at Tan Holdings have a long-term commitment to helping the Division of Parks and Recreation in the upkeep of the Susupe Regional Beach Park so that the community can continue to enjoy it," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Tan disclosed that the park's rehabilitation, which has a project cost of about \$40,000 actually involved three phases.

The first phase was the overall improvement of the park—major repairs on all pavilions and installing a roof on the stage—which was in poor shape when it was first adopted by Tan Holdings.

Tan said most of the work for the first phase was carried out by a contractor, Reliance Construction, although volunteers

regularly came in to do cleanup and paint jobs.

The second phase, Tan said, was to provide lighting for people who use the park at night. The project was close to completion when they found out that all copper wires were stolen one night.

"That phase was abandoned because we cannot find a solution to how we can still provide the lighting without worrying about people stealing them," said Tan.

Tan said the third phase is the children's playground.

According to Tan, the primary reason why the Susupe Regional Beach Park was chosen among other parks on island is its premier location.

"We have some other beach parks but the location is a little bit out of the way. This park is at the heart of the village of Susupe so it's very accessible to the public," he explained.

Tan said the Susupe Regional Beach Park has other salient features such as abundant trees as well as seven pavilions and a stage that can be utilized by families or organizations for special events.

Even with the completion of the project, Tan said Tan Holdings will be doing evaluation and assessment every year or two to check if there is any additional repair work that needs to be done. "This is not a one-time adoption."

Teen Talk

The Tan Holdings management executives were joined by 11 members of Teen Talk, a youth organization under the Public School System Youth Development Program, at Friday's cleanup.

Adviser Sharleen Crisostimo said the group, which meets whenever and wherever they can, helps encourage students to have good, clean fun.

Some of their members, Crisostimo said, are now off-island as they are in military duty or studying college.

Crisostimo, who joined the students along with advisers Monica Pangelinan and Freddy Salavaria, said they agreed to participate in the rehabilitation efforts for the Susupe Beach Regional Park when they were approached by Tan Holdings.

"We're willing to assist in anything that can help the community and give our kids fun without using drugs or alcohol. It's about youth-friendly fun," she said.

Thank you

Rep. Ray Palacios and Rep. Rafael Demapan Jr. attended the ceremony and expressed their appreciation to Tan Holdings for what it has done for the park on behalf of Precinct II residents.

"It makes me very proud and very fortunate that at least Tan Holdings is here to help us with our area," said Palacios.

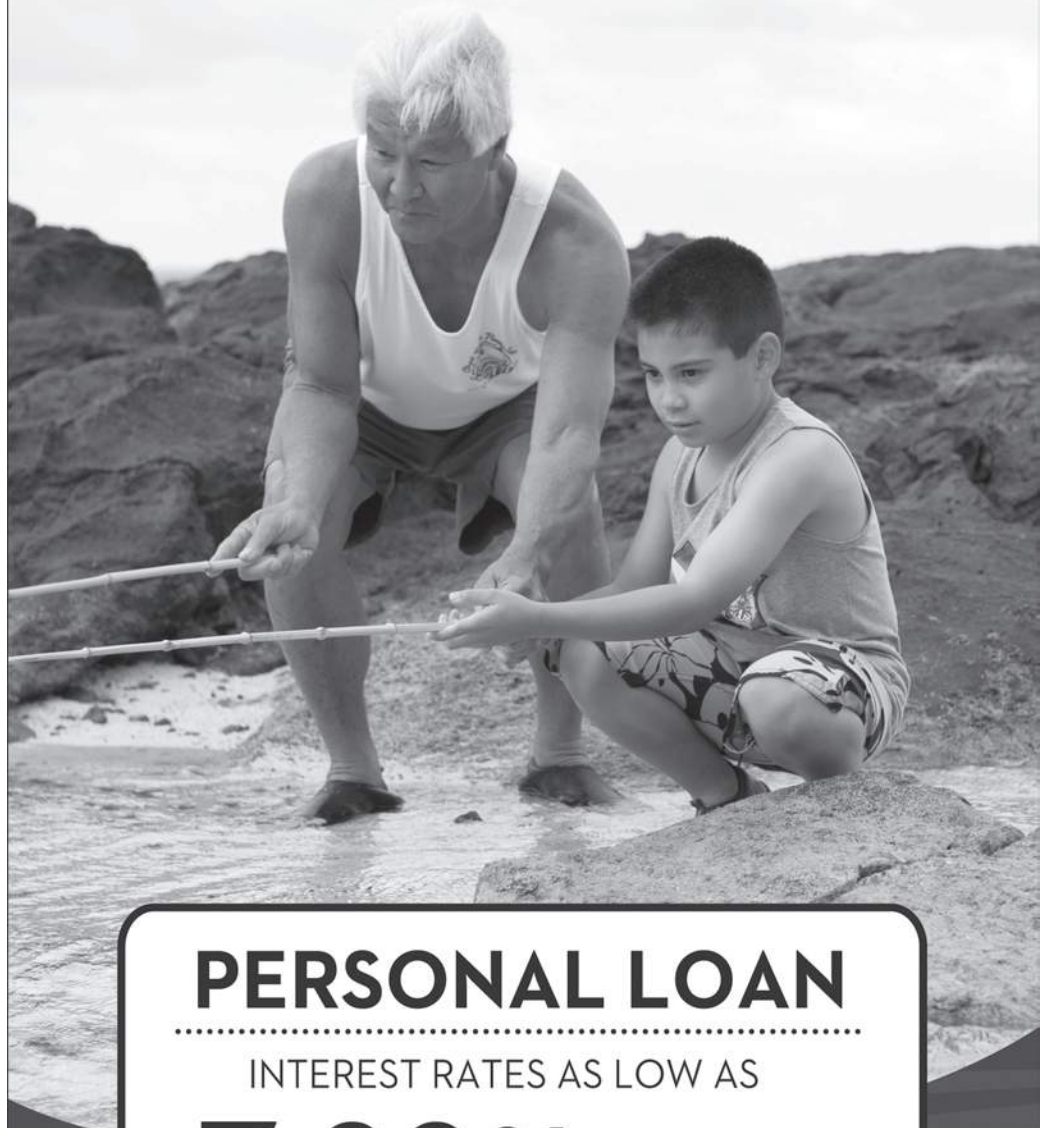
"I appreciate the continued support of Tan Holdings in rehabilitating the Susupe Beach Park. I hope that this good relationship between the private sector and the government will continue," said Demapan.

Manny Pangelinan of the Division of Agriculture said the end users of the playground "will be very happy."

"This park belongs to all of us. Tan Holdings' contribution makes a big difference," he said.

For his part, Parks & Recreation director Anthony Benavente said they are very grateful to Tan Holdings. "We can't do so much because the budget is really going down. With the assistance from any of these companies to go and help out in terms of repair or little bit of renovation, it will be very helpful for the community and the government," he said.

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BILL WEISS

Me in my "rocket attack" mode, standing just in front of the clinic entrance. I wear a helmet and Kevlar vest during attack or when flying anywhere. Inset shows the thermometer—which happens to be directly outside my door—registering 140 degrees, taken around 3pm on my second day in Kandahar. Usually it averages 120 degrees—a cool, balmy day.



By BILL WEISS
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The last two mornings I awoke to the sound of loud sirens. We have 3 seconds to hit the ground before the sound of incoming rockets is heard—and felt—nearby. I'm living near the flight line and it appears the Taliban have begun their spring offensive in Kandahar, aiming their rockets at the airport. Kandahar Airport is arguably the busiest airport in Europe, possibly the world. A good target. But the rockets fall far from anything but empty space. After an hour or two hunkered down in the bunker we receive the all-clear.

The radar detects incoming rockets, giving us about 3 seconds' warning to lie flat. After a couple of minutes, I don my Kevlar vest and helmet and grab my go bags with bandages, tourniquets, IV equipment, and other medical supplies.

The vest is heavy. The usual temperature in the morning is already climbing well past the hottest day of the year in the CNMI. By mid-day, the thermometer shows 130 degrees. It's hot and the equipment I sport is heavy. But no one sweats. It's too dry and any sweat evaporates immediately.

I'm on call 24/7 to respond to any mass casualty situation. Fortunately, there hasn't been a need for my services. As tired as I am from the early morning rocket attacks and feeling hot and weighed down, it's nothing compared to the military guys guarding the wire and searching for the Taliban insurgents. They carry a lot more than I and are likely more hot and anxious than I can imagine.

Following the pleasant female recording of "All clear,"

it's time to get to work at the clinic where I'm assigned. Yesterday morning, following the rocket attack, I went to the shower trailers while there was still some hot water. Stepping out of the shower my foot nearly comes down on a tarantula-sized spider; these are the devilish desert camel spiders. I kill it and place it on the computer of one of my medics.

The regular workday is 12 hours. We work seven days a week. I look forward to seeing my lovely wife on my first day off, probably in four to five months. Twelve hours goes by very quickly here and in fact I usually end up working 16-18 hours. Seeing patients, interacting by Skype or phone with the medics out in the FOBs (forward operating bases), having meetings, spending the occasional boring hours in the bunkers, responding to emergencies, Skyping with my wife, and performing a host of other duties is all part of the regular workday.

Kandahar Air Force Base is located about 15 kilometers from the actual city. I've never seen the city as we can never leave the base (or go outside the wire). But the base is huge and like a city onto itself. Many different places to eat, all free. Gas is free. Housing is free. The PX is well stocked and cheap. Despite the relatively easy living here, there were several adjustment issues when I first arrived. First, all military personnel are required to carry their weapons at all times. The first time I went to chow (called DFAC for dining facility) I'm confronted with hundreds of weapons of all types lying carefully on the floor while the soldiers eat. Now, however, it seems com-

monplace. Another problem is the constant dust blowing in from the desert. Everything takes a shade of gray/brown. I end up cleaning gritty dust off my desk three or four times a day. Also, there is the steady noise of planes, choppers, tanks, Humvees of all types, jets, and things that are not to be named. Mostly, there is never a minute when a plane or jet or chopper is not taking off or landing.

Where I live and work is not far from the Ospreys (the vertical lift tilt-rotor planes)—when they take off in the mornings everything in our living area shakes and rattles. Occasionally we can see a Predator taking off. The A-10 Warthogs and the F-15 fighters are the most exciting, buzzing over the base. Sometimes in the evening we see the fighters taking off, trailing a long stream of blue-yellow flame.

Additionally, there is the new reality of sturdy clothing and footwear. No flip-flops. No comfortable sandals. Everyone wears boots. The ground is strewn with rocks and is very uneven. Wearing sturdy boots and changing socks several times a day is necessary. In fact, the medical staff all wear non-camo, military-like, very rugged clothes with lots of pockets. Because we are medical staff working in a war zone we could be called upon to go anywhere, be evacuated, or instantly moved to another base. Apart from the usual medical paraphernalia one would expect to wear, all persons carry passport, vaccination card, military-issue ID, credit cards, money, and certain other paperwork required in the event we need to leave immediately. In case of attack (like what happened yes-

terday morning) I am never far from medical equipment, boots, Kevlar vest and helmet, and other emergency items. When asleep, I have everything within easy reach. Just in case. I miss walking barefoot in the sand along Micro Beach.

The camaraderie here is awesome. People are friendly. We have military personnel from about 15 different countries. Lots of different languages are spoken at meals, from English to Tagalog to Bosnian to Indian and more. The pay is great and unlike working at THCI, actually do get paid. No cut hours, payless paydays, or politicians taking junkets. Hard work, good pay, and great food. Life in the desert isn't so bad for us. But never far from our thoughts is the fact that the young men and women with whom we eat at the DFAC are out in the desert daily, humping 50 lbs of gear in 120 degrees over very rough terrain. And some don't return alive.

Living in a war zone is a new experience for me. To say that it's exciting is an understatement. I have been on the lookout for anyone from the CNMI but with thousands of military all wearing essentially the same camo clothes and no name tags, it's hard to spot any Chamorros here.

Time to go eat breakfast. Out in the distance this morning we hear the sound of small arms fire and the thump of big guns. Fortunately, no rocket attack. Admittedly, I'm still recovering from last night's excellent chicken parmesan, lasagna, and homemade apple pie. At least the food is good.

Dr. Bill Weiss is currently stationed in Kandahar, Afghanistan.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

June 27, 2000

Task force to expedite data gathering

The newly-organized education task force directed at improving vocational and occupational programs in schools is in the process of gathering data that would identify areas of weaknesses in the existing educational programs. Statistical information on the number of teachers and students under school programs will aid the Public School System and the Northern Marianas College outline priorities with regard to carrying out reforms, according to House Committee on Education Chair Brigida Ichihara. But the task force, according to the congresswoman, has yet to meet and finalize concrete action plans in attacking the issue. "We need at least an estimate of the necessary figures and then we can work from there," said Ichihara.

Senate votes on business reform bill today

The Senate is expected to vote today on the Omnibus Labor and Business Reform bill that it has extensively revamped following three public hearings and several meetings held with both administration officials and private sector leaders. Senators have scheduled a session this morning where the proposal under HB 12-39 is one of key legislation up for voting on the floor. The Senate Committee on Resources, Economic, Development and Program, chaired by Floor Leader Pete P. Reyes, continued to hammer out a compromise version yesterday with several agreements reached with both parties.

June 27, 2001

70M gallon reservoir to be built for watershed project

The second phase of the Kagman Watershed Project took off yesterday with the signing of a memorandum of agreement between the Commonwealth government and the Natural Resource Conservation Service of the US Department of Agriculture. The CNMI government, represented by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, signed the agreement with Joan Perry of the USDA-NRCS at the Capitol Hill, and was witnessed by Secretary Joaquin S. Tenorio of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Patrick Calvo, chairman of the Saipan and Northern Islands Soil and Water Conservation District, and project engineer Tim Brasuell. Brasuell said the second phase of the watershed project involves the construction of a water reservoir in the middle of the watershed area that will hold 70 million gallons of water. The reservoir will intercept floodwater in the area and store this water for irrigation use during the dry season. At the same time, it will also act as a desiltation chamber that will prevent silt from being washed away to sea.

NMI moves to perk up tourism

The Northern Marianas travel industry has set its eyes on how visitor arrivals from Japan would perform this year, following previous predictions that stabilization of the Japanese tourism market will take place around this time. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio even went as far as creating a special task force to oversee infrastructure improvements, which were seen essential to lure more foreign travelers into the Northern Marianas. With the current development in the Japanese economy, Tenorio is confident the CNMI travel sector will witness a marginal growth this year, compared to how the industry rallied in the past three years.

June 27, 2002

NMI emergency system gets \$39K

The emergency and rescue system in the Commonwealth just got a much-needed booster shot in the arm after acting Gov. Diego T. Benavente signed into law two measures that ensures continuous appropriations for the system's upkeep. Underscoring the urgency of the matter, some \$39,000 from the Ambulance Fee Act is now available for the repair, maintenance and upgrade of ambulance and rescue vehicles and the purchase of new equipment and supplies. Benavente signed into law House Bills 13-3 and 13-4 on Tuesday, just before he left for an environmental conference in Palau early yesterday morning.

EQ warns vs. illegal dumping

The Division of Environmental Quality yesterday warned that those caught dumping trash on a non-designated site would be fined at least \$200. This, as some Saipan residents reported that garbage is improperly disposed in different places other than the Puerto Rico dump. Acting DEQ director Antonio I. DeLeon Guerrero yesterday said that even policemen can enforce this, since it is illegal to dump garbage in non-designated areas.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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We need to cease blaming immigrants

By ALVARO HUERTA
THE PROGRESSIVE MEDIA PROJECT

The scapegoating of immigrants must stop. Whether it's Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., blaming the wildfires in the Southwest on immigrants coming across the border or whether it's the state of Alabama passing the harshest anti-immigrant law in the country, it's clear that brown-skinned immigrants have become the targets of the day.

We've moved from the era of Jim Crow—with legalized, racial segregation against blacks—to the era of what I call Juan Crow, with legalized, racial discrimination against Latinos.

McCain said there was “substantial evidence that some of these fires have been caused by people who have crossed our border illegally.” But he didn't provide that evidence, and police have not arrested anyone yet, so his comment was reckless and irresponsible.

McCain's remark is in keeping with the xenophobic legislation that has become law in such states as Arizona, Georgia, Indiana and Utah.

And now Alabama has topped them all after Gov. Robert Bentley signed HB 56 into law on June 9.

That law invites racial profiling against Latinos, both permanent residents and citizens, since the law requires that police officers inquire into the citizenship status of an individual (most likely brown-skinned) if the officers have “reasonable suspicion” that the person is not here legally.

In addition to making police officers immigration agents, HB 56 also transforms teachers into immigration agents by requiring them to check the citizenship status of all K-12 children. Landlords also will be conscripted as immigration agents, since the law makes them legally liable for renting to someone without proper citizenship documentation.

Under the new Alabama law, a U.S. citizen can be arrested for “harboring” an undocumented immigrant by simply having someone without legal status in his or her home for a family gathering. In addition, an elderly person can easily run afoul of the law by hiring a day laborer on the corner to help with moving furniture or performing yard work, since the law prohibits any employment of undocumented immigrants in the state.

This law, like the ones in other states, runs counter to the Christian principles of “love thy neighbor” and “treat others as you wish to be treated.” While it's understandable that most Americans are feeling frustrated and frightened in this Great Recession, it's not acceptable for many of them to scapegoat the most vulnerable in this country: undocumented immigrants. These individuals come to this country to work hard and make an honest living for themselves and families, like the previous millions of Europeans that settled in this country during time of war and economic upheaval in their own homelands.

Just as the era of Jim Crow came to be known as a moral failing on the part of those who constructed it and benefited from it, so too will this era of Juan Crow.

Alvaro Huerta is a visiting scholar at UCLA's Chicano Studies Research Center. He wrote this for Progressive Media Project, a source of liberal commentary on domestic and international issues; it is affiliated with The Progressive magazine.



Creating our greatest asset

Bring in the casinos! Build new hotels! Build new roads! Construct more homes and condos! Increase our tourist market! Yes, let's do all these exciting things to improve our economy. But who will do the work in all these exciting activities? Who will earn decent wages with the available jobs? Our answer should shout out: “We, the local people!” But...

Are we capable? Are we willing to do the work? Are we trained to take over? Or are we going to insist that foreign workers do the work for us while we sit and wait for the tax revenues to flow in? We did this when the garment industry was in full bloom. We sat on the sidelines and let the nonresident workers flood into our workforce.

Now that the garment industry is only a memory, the nonresident workers are still doing our work and remitting our U.S. grant money back to their home country. And amidst all this we sit in deepening poverty. What is wrong with us and our thinking? Let's look at what some other countries have learned about having a well-educated and skilled workforce.

From 1958 to 1974, I lived in Japan and watched her rebuild her war-devastated economy to become one of the world's highest. Japan led in technology and exports for many years. Yes, Japan has had her ups and downs, but she has managed to still remain a formidable power in the world. Yet she has no natural resources, but she has a well-educated and skilled labor force not afraid to work.

However, Japan also had very determined leaders at that time that motivated the people to improve themselves and the country. I know because I met several of the prime ministers and had the opportunity to speak with them.

Across from Japan is Korea. Many times during the same period from 1958 to 1974, I visited Korea and watched her build her war-devastated economy. Today Korea is a powerhouse of economic strength. Yet she too has no natural resources. And despite that North and South Korea are still on a collision course, South Korea maintains a strong economy. How? Her people! They are industrious and not afraid of taking risks and determined to succeed.

But again Korea's leaders prodded the people to take up their shovels and work hard to restore their country. This I personally witnessed on my many trips there. This is what strong leadership has done and can do for us.

During the years I lived and worked there, I watched as both Japanese and Koreans became shopkeepers and businesspeople. There was no food stamp program. One either worked or did not eat. Up to today this is still the norm. I also saw this when I visited Mexico. Our guide remarked how fortunate we Americans are to have food stamps. “Here,” he told me, “we either work or we don't eat!”

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is a former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.



Today we are amazed at the great economic strides China is making. China is the world's fastest growing economy. Who deserves the credit for this? It is the Chinese government that motivates workers to become skilled labors. It is the Chinese workers who leave their homes, and often their families, to find work in the factories of China's booming coastal cities. All have their thoughts on the present and their eyes on the future. They have learned the meaning of work and its ethic.

One of the worst programs ever fostered on people is welfare! Welfare encourages failure and robs the recipient of the will to help himself. Either the recipients failed to do enough to help themselves or society failed to provide enough opportunities. Welfare doesn't try to decide why people are poor; it only guarantees a minimal

income. However if the welfare program were slightly altered, it could become one of the best social programs.

Consider the benefits if the government were to mandate that all welfare recipients attend regular educational training courses of their choice for as long as they receive a handout. For example, a mother without training and with children too young for her to work can attend

classes in nutrition, cooking, literacy and many other self-improvement courses several times a week. The men or women can attend vocational or management skills courses so that eventually they too will be eligible for good paying positions.

A step like this is called a “human investment” measure. Instead of reaching out with guilt for having to “beg” for a living, the recipient strives to better himself/herself. Endless research has proven that education is the surest route out of poverty. Thus while the individual receives economic support, he/she will be building skills needed to meet the challenges of the labor market.

Yearly our government spends millions of dollars for public school education. The government feels that it has accomplished its task of educating the populace while they are children. Yet prisons are filled with adult failures, drug addicts and alcoholics. Unskilled

See **CREATING** on Page 13

“ Knowledge is the prerequisite for self-determination and self-realization. Well-trained workers increase productivity and improve the quality of work. Education is a prerequisite for development. ”

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Prevailing wage survey: Right now, at long last

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce has announced that it will commission a prevailing wage survey for the CNMI through the Guam Employers Council, which has conducted these kinds of surveys in the past. We have heard rumors of prevailing wage surveys that may be conducted by either private companies or government agencies and, for a number of reasons, we welcome as many surveys, using the proper methodology, as may be done. But the Chamber of Commerce has taken the first concrete step toward actually getting the job done, and getting it done for as many job categories as possible, across the board.

A valid prevailing wage survey is critical for the CNMI, and for employees as well as employers. Here's why.

Workforce Preservation

It's a no-brainer that you can't get work done without people to do the work, at all levels. In the CNMI that has always meant importing alien guest workers and, even after the demise of the garment industry, it still does. The suggestion made by a U.S. Department of Labor functionary, in a Chamber of Commerce-sponsored "stakeholders teleconference" a year ago, that the CNMI could fill in its workforce gaps with "seasonal chambermaids" and "seasonal agricultural workers," only demonstrates how far removed these bureaucrats are from reality in the CNMI.

Anyone who is not alarmed after reading the Government Accountability Office report on CNMI jobs and wages, issued at the end of last week, is living in a different universe. (A summary of the report, with links to more a more detailed summary and to the report itself, is available at <http://tinyurl.com/6zjck8e>.) Jobs have disappeared at a drastic rate in the past five years, and the resulting drop in business has left many employers (including the CNMI government) struggling to make payroll. We certainly wish we could pay our own staff more, and they certainly deserve it, but we can't. It doesn't matter what the reason is—and we've heard plenty of reasons, from the departure of the garment factories, to the decline of tourism in the face of terrorism and natural disasters, even Article 12—the fact is that to keep our businesses running and to preserve what's left of the CNMI economy, we must be able to hire employees at wages that are not only agreeable to employer and employee, but are also within an affordable range.

Fortunately, the CNMI still has a trained and capable workforce. Those who are U.S. citizens and U.S. permanent residents, or are citizens of the Freely Associated States, can live and work here freely. For now, so can CNMI permanent residents and their immediate relatives, and the immediate relatives of FAS citizens, thanks to the generous grant of humanitarian parole (aka parole-in-place) by USCIS. Unfortunately, much of that workforce is composed of aliens who do not qualify for any U.S. visa except the long-awaited CW-1 category. Although CW-1 was designed to help maintain the CNMI workforce by providing a temporary U.S. immigration status for the bulk of alien guest workers, it remains to be seen whether the final regulations will be published in time to beat the Nov. 28, 2011 deadline, and whether the status will be extended beyond the end of 2014. Most CW-1 employees will be minimum wage workers, as they are now.

But what about the large number of aliens working in the CNMI as professional or skilled workers? These are the workers who will not qualify for CW-1, because there are U.S. employment visa categories such as H-1B available for them as accountants, engineers, tech specialists, and the like.

What is a Prevailing Wage?

Most U.S. employment visa categories require that the salary offered to the worker, in whatever category, must be at least the "prevailing wage," which is the average wage paid to workers in the same job category, in the same state or territory. The policy justification for this requirement is to prevent employers from paying low wages to foreign workers, which, in turn, would depress wages for American workers. In other words, if an employer wants to hire a foreign worker, he must pay that worker the same salary as an American worker would reasonably expect. In order to employ workers in certain categories, such as H-1B, the employer must obtain certification from US DOL, by filing a labor condition application, or LCA, for each employee. US DOL makes the determination using the following standard:

[W]hether there are not sufficient United States workers who are able, willing, qualified and available; whether the employment of the foreign worker will have an adverse effect on the wages and

working conditions of United States workers similarly employed; and whether the employer has met the procedural requirements of the regulations.

All other things being equal, the wage will be approved, and the employer can proceed with the application to USCIS or Department of State, if the offered wage is equal to, or greater than, the prevailing wage for that job category.

What is a Prevailing Wage Survey?

The LCA is done online. The form asks what wage is offered, and then asks the basis on which the wage was determined. For a minimum wage job, or a union job with wages governed by contract, that's all that's needed. For a professional position, however, the basis should include the established wage in the region. For example, the Guam Department of Labor has established prevailing wages for most skilled and professional job categories. This is based on prevailing wage surveys done in the past; note that prevailing wage surveys, to be considered valid, must be kept updated every two years or so.

The prevailing wage survey is just that: a survey of the wages paid in each job category by the largest number of responding employers. The methodology is specialized, and must meet standards acceptable to US DOL, but at its heart a prevailing wage survey attempts to get the largest amount of data for each job category, and then boil it down to a set of usable numbers.

What is a Prevailing Wage Determination and Who Makes It? Or, Why We Need a Prevailing Wage Survey

As part of the LCA process the employer can ask for a prevailing wage determination, or PWD. The PWD is supposed to reflect the prevailing wages in the place where the worker will be employed, and US DOL has said that it will accept CNMI prevailing wages for CNMI-based workers.

To keep our businesses running and to preserve what's left of the CNMI economy, we must be able to hire employees at wages that are not only agreeable to employer and employee, but are also within an affordable range.

■ Guam Wages Rule

And that's where the problem starts. There is no prevailing wage survey for the CNMI, and US DOL has made it clear that it has no intention of doing one. Therefore, when a CNMI employer request a PWD, US DOL uses the Guam scale. The outcome most often is that the required wage is more than the employer can pay, and more than the employee expects, often by 100-200 percent. As we said earlier in this column, we are all for improved wages when they are affordable; however, with our economy in tatters, the PWDs coming out of US DOL these days are simply unrealistic for the CNMI labor market.

If you are interested in specifics, take a look at the Guam DOL prevailing wage web pages for non-professionals, starting at <http://tinyurl.com/6gmqx4n>. In March, the federal government published current and proposed prevailing wages for Guam in the Federal Register, available at <http://tinyurl.com/68xoly5>. If you think those wages are high—roughly double current CNMI wages for the same jobs—than take a look at the comparison chart with Hawaii rates put together by the Guam Chamber of Commerce, at <http://tinyurl.com/5ts4wzd>. The Hawaii rates are roughly three times those in Guam; more, if benefits are factored in.

In this column we do not intend to discuss how to determine job category, or the detailed application process. US DOL has some excellent online references; a good starting place is the prevailing wage FAQ page for the Office of Foreign Labor Certification, at <http://tinyurl.com/63lwt5a>, which has very useful links to a wide range of information. For our discussion, visit the database that US DOL uses for determining prevailing wages, the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) wage library; the Guam data is available at <http://tinyurl.com/6aqhdj6>.

IMMIGRATION FORUM

By **MAYA KARA** and **BRUCE MAILMAN**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Maya Kara is a native of Hungary and comes to the practice of law by way of her interest in Asian history. Bruce Mailman is a native of Bakersfield, California and was a private investigator in California prior to becoming a lawyer. Both have lived and practiced law in the CNMI for over 20 years, Maya in government service and Bruce in private practice. They are married and are partners in the law firm of Mailman & Kara, LLC in Garapan, Saipan.

■ Choose Your Job Level? Not.

For example, we recently had to deal with the category of "construction managers," which is a professional category; at OES <http://tinyurl.com/65zpnvl>. Each OES category has four levels. The Guam prevailing wage for level 1 construction manager is \$29,474, and goes up to level 4, at \$58,344.

Fair enough, but the form requesting a prevailing wage determination does not allow the applicant to specify which level job is being offered. In our case, the employer was offering a level 2 or level 3 job—but the PWD came back for level 4—a difference of between \$10,000 to \$20,000 per year.

And every PWD we've gotten so far has been "level 4." Who figures that out for the government?

■ Stuck with the PWD

The good thing about a PWD is that it provides a safe harbor for the employer. The government cannot come back later and tell an employer who has followed the PWD that the employees' wages are not sufficient. That can happen, however, to the employer who simply offers a wage on the LCA, and has it accepted without getting a PWD—if the federal government later investigates and determines that the wages are below the prevailing wage, the government can go after the employer for the difference, which is then paid to the worker(s). The penalty for ignoring the prevailing wage is severe.

So the wise employer gets a PWD, right? Sure, but once the PWD is issued, the employer is stuck with it. That's the downside. If the CNMI had its own prevailing wage survey and OES wage levels, we would agree this is fair. But we don't, and the effect of unfair PWDs is crippling. No one wins if the employer cannot afford to continue in business—the employer folds, the jobs disappear and the workers are on the beach.

The Proposed Prevailing Wage Survey: A Bargain for the CNMI

The Chamber of Commerce will roll out its prevailing wage survey plans at the regular July 6 Chamber meeting, which this month will be at the Grand Hotel at 11:30am. Andy Andrus, who will conduct the survey, will describe the survey process.

But there's more: Immediately after the Chamber's lunch meeting, at 1:30pm., Mr. Andrus will give an approximately one-hour presentation at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Su-supe, with a more technical discussion of the survey and its benefits, and a Q&A session.

There is no charge for the July 6 session at the Multi-Purpose Center. Better, employers who decide to participate in the prevailing wage survey will receive the survey report at no charge, when it is issued to the Chamber. They will be able to use it in making LCA applications, and in requesting PWDs. Nonparticipants will be allowed access to the survey later. For those reluctant to reveal what might be considered confidential information, the Chamber has promised 100 percent confidentiality to participants in the survey.






So mark your calendars. Be there. It's important.

The information contained in this column is intended as general information only, and not as individual legal advice. Readers should obtain professional legal advice before taking action with respect to their individual situations. Readers may submit questions regarding federalization or immigration issues to the authors by email to lexmarianas@pticom.com. Readers may also e-mail written questions through the Saipan Tribune at editor@saipantribune.com.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

| TODAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|---|---|---|--|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. |
| ▲ 88° ▼ 79° | ▲ 88° ▼ 77° | ▲ 88° ▼ 78° | ▲ 88° ▼ 79° | ▲ 88° ▼ 79° |

Micronesia

| | | |
|---------------|---------------|-----------|
| Guam and Rota | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 82 ▼ 77 |
| Palau | Thunderstorms | ▲ 86 ▼ 78 |
| Yap | Cloudy | ▲ 85 ▼ 77 |
| Chuuk | Mostly Cloudy | ▲ 82 ▼ 76 |
| Pohnpei | Showers | ▲ 87 ▼ 73 |
| Kosrae | Cloudy | ▲ 85 ▼ 78 |
| Majuro | Cloudy | ▲ 82 ▼ 77 |

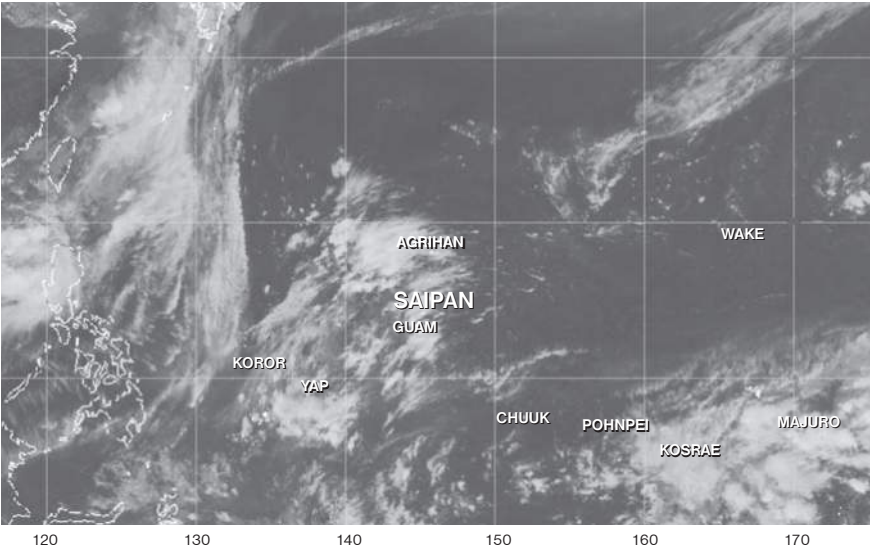
Around The Globe

| | | |
|----------------|----------------|-----------|
| Auckland | Showers | ▲ 60 ▼ 54 |
| Beijing | Thundershowers | ▲ 89 ▼ 68 |
| Hong Kong | Thundershowers | ▲ 87 ▼ 82 |
| Honolulu | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 84 ▼ 74 |
| London | Mostly Sunny | ▲ 83 ▼ 67 |
| Los Angeles | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 79 ▼ 61 |
| Manila | Thundershowers | ▲ 83 ▼ 78 |
| Melbourne | Sunny | ▲ 60 ▼ 40 |
| Miami | Thundershowers | ▲ 91 ▼ 80 |
| New York | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 83 ▼ 69 |
| Osaka | Thundershowers | ▲ 86 ▼ 75 |
| Paris | Sunny | ▲ 93 ▼ 68 |
| Pusan | Thundershowers | ▲ 76 ▼ 68 |
| Rome | Sunny | ▲ 88 ▼ 66 |
| Salem | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 81 ▼ 59 |
| San Francisco | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 65 ▼ 55 |
| Seoul | Showers | ▲ 82 ▼ 67 |
| Tokyo | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 83 ▼ 74 |
| Washington, DC | Thundershowers | ▲ 90 ▼ 74 |

Tides

| Saipan Harbor | | | | |
|---------------|-------|------------|----------|--|
| 4:26 AM | Today | High Tide: | 1.8 Feet | |
| 12:07 PM | Today | Low Tide: | 0.0 Feet | |
| 7:15 PM | Today | High Tide: | 1.5 Feet | |
| 11:50 PM | Today | Low Tide: | 1.2 Feet | |

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, JUNE 25, 2011

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

An upper-level trough extends north-northeastward from EQ133E through an upper-level low centered west of Guam near 15N136E to beyond 25N at 142E. Divergent upper-level winds associated with this feature are triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near Yap, Koror and the Marianas within an area bounded by a line from 25N139E to 17N148E to 5N140E to 6N133E back to 25N139E. A near-equatorial trough runs eastward from a weak circulation centered south of Pohnpei at 3N158E to end at 6N167E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found just south of Pohnpei and over Kosrae south of a line from 6N158E to 8N167E. Converging trade winds are producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms east of the near-equatorial trough over Majuro south of a line from 8N167E to 9N180. An upper-level low east-northeast of Wake island is triggering isolated thunderstorms east of 173E between 20N and 24N.

Sunrise/Sunset

| | | |
|-----------|---------|---------|
| Today | 5:49 AM | 6:51 PM |
| Tuesday | 5:49 AM | 6:51 PM |
| Wednesday | 5:50 AM | 6:51 PM |
| Thursday | 5:50 AM | 6:51 PM |
| Friday | 5:50 AM | 6:51 PM |

Moonrise/Moonset

| | | |
|-----------|---------|---------|
| Today | 2:03 AM | 3:10 PM |
| Tuesday | 2:48 AM | 4:03 PM |
| Wednesday | 3:37 AM | 4:57 PM |
| Thursday | 4:29 AM | 5:51 PM |
| Friday | 5:25 AM | 6:44 PM |

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 10, 2011

| DEPARTURES | | | | ARRIVALS | | | |
|---|---------|----------|--------------------------|--|---------|-----------|--------------------------|
| SAIPAN-GUAM | | | | GUAM-SAIPAN | | | |
| C09317 | 4:25am | 5:15am | Daily | C09316 | 2:45am | 3:35am | Daily |
| C09313 | 7:55am | 8:45am | 3, 6 | C09596 | 6:35am | 7:25am | 3, 6 |
| C09313 | 8:30am | 9:20am | 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 | C09596 | 7:00am | 7:50am | 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 |
| C09601 | 12:10pm | 1:00pm | 1, 4, 5, 7 | C09600 | 10:05am | 10:55am | 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 |
| C09603 | 3:05pm | 3:55pm | 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 | 5K389 | 1:35pm | 2:25pm | 1, 4, 6 |
| 5K382 | 6:00pm | 6:50pm | 2, 5, 7 | C09602 | 1:40pm | 2:30pm | 1, 4, 5, 7 |
| C09605 | 6:30pm | 7:20pm | Daily | C09604 | 5:10pm | 6:00pm | Daily |
| C09599 | 9:30pm | 10:20pm | Daily | C09606 | 8:00pm | 8:50pm | Daily |
| SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) | | | | NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN | | | |
| DL287 | 6:00am | 8:45am | Daily | DL298 | 10:25am | 3:00pm | Daily |
| DL297 | 4:35pm | 7:20pm | Daily | DL288 | 8:05pm | 12:35am+1 | Daily |
| SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) | | | | BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN | | | |
| OZ608 | 3:20am | 6:50am | 1, 5 | OZ607 | 9:00pm | 2:20am+1 | 4, 7 |
| SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) | | | | SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN | | | |
| OZ606 | 2:20am | 6:00am | 1 | OZ603 | 9:00am | 2:30pm | 2, 4, 6, 7 |
| OZ606 | 2:50am | 6:30am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 | OZ605 | 7:40pm | 1:10am+1 | 7 |
| OZ604 | 3:30pm | 7:00pm | 2, 4, 6, 7 | OZ605 | 8:10pm | 1:40am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 |
| SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) | | | | SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN | | | |
| MU590 | 4:30am | 7:20am | 2, 6 | MU589 | 8:50pm | 3:30am+1 | 1, 5 |
| 3U8648 | 6:10am | 8:40am | 1, 5 | 3U8647 | 10:40pm | 5:00am+1 | 4, 7 |
| SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) | | | | GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN | | | |
| 3U8646 | 4:20am | 7:30am | 2, 4 | 3U8645 | 7:40pm | 3:00am+1 | 1, 5 |
| SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) | | | | MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN | | | |
| OZ606/701 | 2:20am | 11:25am | 1 via ICN | OZ704/603 | 12:10am | 2:30pm | 2, 4, 6, 7 |
| OZ606/701 | 2:50am | 11:25am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN | | | | via ICN |
| C09317/891 | 4:25am | 9:45am | 3, 6 via GUM | DL172/288 | 7:45am | 12:35am+1 | Daily via NRT |
| DL287/173 | 6:00am | 10:15pm | Daily via NRT | C0890/9606 | 10:55am | 8:50pm | 3, 6 via GUM |
| C09313/933 | 7:55am | 8:40pm | 3, 6 via GUM | OZ702/605 | 12:45pm | 1:10am+1 | 7 via ICN |
| C09603/933 | 3:05pm | 8:40pm | 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 via GUM | OZ702/605 | 12:45pm | 1:40am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN |
| C09603/893 | 3:05pm | 10:10pm | 2, 5 via GUM-Palau | C0892/9596 | 9:55pm | 7:50am+1 | 2, 5 via GUM-Palau |
| OZ604/703 | 3:20pm | 11:00pm | 2, 4, 6, 7 ICN | PR110/C09596 | 10:15pm | 7:25am+1 | 6 via GUM |
| OZ604/715 | 3:20pm | 11:30pm | 7 | PR110/C09596 | 10:15pm | 7:50am+1 | 1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM |
| C09599/PR111 | 9:30pm | 7:50am+1 | 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM | C0934/9596 | 10:55pm | 7:50am+1 | 1, 4, 7 via GUM |
| | | | | C0934/9596 | 10:55pm | 7:25am+1 | 3, 6 via GUM |
| | | | | C0934/9596 | 11:25pm | 7:50am+1 | 2, 5 via GUM |
| SAIPAN-HONG KONG | | | | HONG KONG-SAIPAN | | | |
| OZ606/721 | 2:20am | 11:50am | 1 via ICN | OZ724/603 | 12:30am | 2:20pm | 2, 4, 6, 7 |
| OZ606/721 | 2:50am | 11:50am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN | | | | via ICN |
| C09603/909 | 3:05pm | 9:25pm | 1, 5 via GUM | OZ750/603 | 1:00am | 2:20pm | 2, 4, 6, 7 |
| 5K168 | 3:25pm | 6:35pm | 1, 4, 6 | | | | via ICN |
| OZ604/749 | 3:30pm | 11:00pm | 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN | 5K169 | 9:55am | 5:00pm | 2, 5, 7 |
| | | | | OZ722/605 | 1:25pm | 1:10am+1 | 7 via ICN |
| | | | | OZ722/605 | 1:25pm | 1:40am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN |
| | | | | C0910/9596 | 10:30pm | 7:50am+1 | 1, 5 via GUM |
| Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana | | | | ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.) | | | |

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

| Airline | ETD | ETA | Frequency | Airline | ETD | ETA | Frequency |
|----------------------|-------|-------|-----------|----------------------|-------|-------|-----------|
| Guam-Rota | | | | FRE 113 | 11:40 | 11:50 | Daily |
| FRE 100 | 7:30 | 8:00 | Daily | FRE 115 | 13:00 | 13:10 | Daily |
| Rota-Saipan | | | | FRE 117 | 14:30 | 14:40 | Daily |
| FRE 100 | 8:20 | 8:50 | Daily | FRE 119 | 16:00 | 16:10 | Daily |
| Guam-Rota | | | | FRE 121 | 16:40 | 16:50 | Daily |
| FRE 300 | 17:00 | 17:30 | Daily | FRE 123 | 17:40 | 17:50 | Daily |
| Rota-Saipan | | | | FRE 125 | 18:30 | 18:40 | Daily |
| FRE 400 | 17:50 | 18:20 | Daily | | | | |
| Saipan-Rota | | | | Tinian-Saipan | | | |
| FRE 200 | 9:30 | 10:00 | Daily | FRE 102 | 7:05 | 7:15 | Daily |
| Rota-Guam | | | | FRE 104 | 7:50 | 8:00 | Daily |
| FRE 400 | 10:20 | 10:45 | Daily | FRE 106 | 8:20 | 8:30 | Daily |
| Saipan-Rota | | | | FRE 108 | 9:00 | 9:10 | Daily |
| FRE 400 | 18:55 | 19:25 | Daily | FRE 110 | 10:00 | 10:10 | Daily |
| Rota-Guam | | | | FRE 112 | 11:05 | 11:15 | Daily |
| FRE 400 | 19:40 | 20:10 | Daily | FRE 114 | 12:00 | 12:10 | Daily |
| Saipan-Tinian | | | | FRE 116 | 13:30 | 13:40 | Daily |
| FRE 101 | 6:45 | 6:55 | Daily | FRE 118 | 14:50 | 15:00 | Daily |
| FRE 103 | 7:30 | 7:40 | Daily | FRE 120 | 16:20 | 16:30 | Daily |
| FRE 105 | 8:00 | 8:10 | Daily | FRE 122 | 17:00 | 17:10 | Daily |
| FRE 107 | 8:40 | 8:50 | Daily | FRE 124 | 18:05 | 18:15 | Daily |
| FRE 109 | 9:10 | 9:20 | Daily | FRE 126 | 18:50 | 19:00 | Daily |
| FRE 111 | 10:45 | 10:55 | Daily | | | | |



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Good Earth's dust

By **JAIME VERGARA**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.



“From dust you came, and to dust you shall return,” is the phrase in Lent’s Ash Wednesday echoing the desert wisdom of Ecclesiastes. The facticity of the matter lends enough credence to the statement, making it a description of reality rather than an invitational leap of faith.

Pearl Buck’s Pulitzer-winning novel *The Good Earth*, China in the aftermath of the Qing emperor’s abdication before the nationalists found their mission and the communist located their voice. These days, “good earth” is “dust,” which idles everywhere in this land of the Middle Realm. “To dust I came, and to dust I will surely return, and one lives in it the rest of one’s life, too!”

I had chosen Liaoning’s latitude and longitude being in the same position as Oregon halfway between San Francisco and Seattle inland, expecting four seasons. We did; had two days of autumn and two weeks of spring. Already, the sweltering summer heat has enveloped the Manchurian plain, but it is the dust that irritates the eye and gnaws at one’s antiseptic sense of equanimity.

Some of the dust comes from nature. The dust bowl dynamic has

CREATING

From Page 10

potential good workers roam the streets seeking work. Meanwhile poverty flourishes. At times I want to cry when I see this waste of potential pool of workers.

Compare the huge amount of money we spend on building prisons, maintaining them, and the amount of money we spend many times on totally non-essential projects. It is obvious that these are more important than people. When will our leaders wake up and motivate our citizens to become our labor pool? We have acres of diamonds under our feet and don’t see them.

I can go on and on about the need to train our own citizens to become the skilled trained workers we need. But unless our government leaders earnestly take a sincere and determined effort to correct this problem, we will continue to sink into poverty and hopelessness.

Poverty means not having a voice and hence no influence on important decisions which have an impact on our lives. Poverty means hunger. Poverty means suffering from disease. Poverty means the lack of educational opportunities. The path out of poverty? Better education coupled with training!

Knowledge is the prerequisite for self-determination and self-realization. Well-trained workers increase productivity and improve the quality of work. Education is a prerequisite for development.

I dream that someday our leaders will understand the importance of solving this problem. With their encouragement, we can become great again. There is no other way. All the handouts, all the casinos, all the increase in tourism, all the other projects we hope for will not bring prosperity to our community until we, the citizens, become a vital part of all this activity. Join in my plea to them, We need their motivation and assistance.

The only way to improve our community and ourselves is to roll up our sleeves and go to work. We must do the work ourselves. We must educate ourselves to become a trained and motivated workforce. We must demand that our government make human investments and human resources a national priority.

The former Prime Minster of Singapore Lee Kuan Yew, once stated that Singapore’s success was due to “*the ability and industry of our young people, willing and eager to learn, prepared to work hard and pay their way in the world, finding pride and pleasure in constructive endeavor....There is no law in nature which provides that life will get better next year. We have to work to make it better.*”

I have repeatedly stated that Singapore is a prime example of what a country can do when its people are encouraged by its leaders. Today it stands as one of the most economically successful countries in the world. Yet it has no natural resources except a determined and a trained population.

Please take the time out to read *From Third World to First: The Singapore Story: 1965—2000* by Lee Kuan Yew. It is a fascinating history of rags to riches as told by the man who made it happen. I suggest it be mandatory reading for all leaders.

Do we leave our citizens in the abyss of poverty or do we create a second chance for them? Do we accept the loss of faith in ourselves as inevitable? Have we lost our dreams? We can become prosperous again. It is within our grasp! Let’s get off our butts (excuses) and do it!

hit China hard this year, and some of those scorched by the drought were also mercilessly inundated with floods when the rain finally drenched the terrain. One of Beijing’s Metro stations swam in water this week as the skies poured its tears, a little too late for Jiangsu and Henan’s farms, and a little too much for some whose hills no longer can hold the cascade’s romp.

We got more dust Saturday just when a former Saipan resident we assisted located us. He asked that I join his family in their famous *jiao zi* meal (dumplings) chopsticked into a bowl of sauce. I am partial to *wonton* soup but that is more of a Guangzhou-Shanghai-Beijing urban delicacy that has made it to Western palates, so home-made dumplings was good enough. It is Final exams week but this offer would have been impolite to refuse.

The University is situated north of Shenyang’s outermost circumferential road so my host picked me up to their modest but chandelier-equipped dining room on the top floor of their housing development. Viewing the city from their apartment’s vantage point, it became clear that the source of the perpetual dust is not just from the swirl of Siberian winds nor the air currents of the plains that originates from *Neimonggu* (Inner Mongolia), but from the ongoing construction projects and housing developments every other block, along with the city’s rush to do work on the underground Metro before the north freezing winds returns.

After the meal, I told my host to let me take the bus back to the University, and he gladly consented, handing me two boxes of light summer shoes (one by Chrisdien Deny, which I first thought to be a play on Christian Dior, but turns out to be a legitimate and reputable Italian shoemaker), and a Renminbi coin (15 cents) for the bus. He might have noticed before I got into my flipflops that my old walking shoes had seen more than its share of superglue to keep the cracked material together. He knew my mendicant monastic lifestyle enough that the sharing of means

Ritiradan Bakasion

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

DelRosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.



Man-hanau membron lehislatura man-bakasion giya Palau gi mapos na semana. Sige malista dispues eskusu hafa na presisu na u fan bakasion ginen kalaguag publiku. Dispues ‘nai marepara na lache oran bakasion niha ayu mina’ kulan sisitan i finalaguen eskusu siha.

Sa’ ya mohon mañaga tatte ya maguadog halom gueku na kakaguñ niha, siña masoda’ mas ke siñku na resulasion pot para umaadelanta linala’ tautauta guine.

Esta sumen na’ mamahlau sa’ antes ha’ de u fan ensinahyau huyunñ gi ruplanu, ma-adapta dos aktu: Unu pot pantie famalaoan ni man-matatala’ gi sanhiyoñg; i otro pot biskileta. Ilegu na kumu man-satton este siha na los probres gi offisiun niha ti u faneghon papa’ pot “pantie” famalaoan yan biskileta. Señores yan señoras, gaige i asuntu gi problemam ekonomia guine.

Gi talulu’ gi halom chubasku yan pagyun taya’ fondu man-hanau ha’ hamyu man-bakasion? Ti mattu gi hinasson miyu na i kontribusion tax publiku umapase bakasion miyu? Hafa mohon pinadesisiña i publiku na mampos in’ hasñgon malabidan miyu? Na ti magahet na todus man-chachafleg ya para in’ hasñgon man-bakasion ginen kalaguag niha?

Hafa mohon ya in’ fanue’ i publiku hafa planun miyu para in’ adelanta i sumen chafleg na ekonomian tano’ta? Siña in’ presenta hafa ennu na planu sa’ kulan no siakassu hamyu gi pinadesen i tautau siha gi señgoñg? De dios mihu na diskuidu kontra i tautau ni in’ representa!

Pasun Tata Gi Inai

Un’ tiempu antes, sessu hu dalalag si Tata tumalaya giya Puntan Muchot. Hafana’ gue-yu’ man-go’naf tiau, pegi yan faya gi halom unai. Dispues hu distilpas ya hu sahguan gi alan niyog ni finatinasña. Sige ham luchan esta kase i menan Hafa Adai Hotel pagu. Dispues in’ bira ham tatte para bai’n gacha’ makone’ mame.

Esta pagu ayu na lugat hulili’e gi hinasoghu ‘sino guinifihu. Tai malefaghu’ an ha akanteha finalagon guihan gi halom tasi. Dispues kumahates antes de hu dagau i talayaña. Guaha ha’ ‘nai hulie’ otro siha talayeru bumisita i mismu kumuderu. Hu busisita tatte gi hinasoghu ayu na lugat ‘an ha gacha’yu’ mahalañg ñaihon as tata ya sige pagu hu ‘rastreha pasuña.

Ayu na strechun unai iya Puntan Muchot tat ti ha chahlau desde antigu na tiempu, kontodu geran dos ‘nai mit pot mit man-matai na sindalu ‘nai mahatme Saipan ni Amerikanu gi 1944. Matulalaika i hechuran unaña depende gi hafa na patte gi sakan.

‘An Agustu ‘nai humalom i tiempun pagyu, mas inus i inaiña sa’ binatsala ni napu guatu estaya iya Mañagaha. Dispues de mapau i

was taken for granted as a matter of course, rather than a case of loss or gain of face.

It was the bus ride back that made the dust go real earthy. The jam-packed bus ran every hour so I bravely pronounced my “*Ting pu dong*” (I do not understand) in response to the driver who was probably explaining that he could not take any more passengers. I didn’t have another waiting hour to spare. I could have taken a taxi for \$3 but I coveted the experience so I stood on the entry steps the whole time with my two shoeboxes, a plastic bag with dumplings and fruits, my ubiquitous laptop computer and a front view.

Where the cuisine thrives on onions, garlic and other spices, the human fragrance in the non-aircon bus was noticeably rich and spiked. The sights in the city neighborhoods this early summer came bursting out all over. Red streamers and inflated arches abounded, advertising goods and dwelling units, while fruit (mangosteen and durian along with all kiwis, cherries, plums, berries) and vegetable stalls (green, green, green) were set up along the sidewalk. The watermelon trucks were parked on the curb as newlyweds bought their share of the Vitamin-E rich luscious saran-wrapped sliced summer fruit.

Dong Bei dancers (youngish retired folks who took benefits after 50) graced the front of stores doing their two-steps in their colorful garb and fans, which got all the folks out this Saturday afternoon; young lovers held hands as they promenade while children shrieked as they chased each other in their games. Permanent and modular water fountains were turned on for the first time with dancing waters in tune to blared music. Chinatown girls were doing the samba down Ipanema way!

It was then I realized that I did not mind if in dust I shall remain. With deep breath, I sensed I was right home in my glocal village. The dust affirmed my finitude, and the dust, even in McKibben’s *Eaarth*, is good.

mattiempu, adumididi’ ha birague’ tatte i inai ya sumaga gi sagaña. Kulan i mañglo’ ni guaha ‘nai matulaika direksioña.

Sige ma-akanteha yan ma-estudiaye taimanu ‘nai siña ma-asegura presetbasion uson liñguahe Chamorro. Mauleg na intension yan animu i chumochoneg uson liñguahen tanu. Lau gaige primera appot-tunidat manala’la’ hila’ natibu gi apusienton familia.

Kumu diariu este na eksisiu, mas libianu i famaguonta man-eyag uson liñguahen niha. Debi na ginen halom este na ineyag. Mauleg tafana’gue famaguonta ni finu’ niha. Este solu uttimu sasyan ‘nai siña ta asegura na sumaga yan homlu’ i finu Chamorro gi halom man-natibu.

Suabe, bonitu na sunidu, na’ mahalañg yan hana’ pasifiku siñienteghu ‘nai sige madandan gi CD player. Ilelegña i kanta, “Ta hita manguife gi halom mapagahes”. Entre guahu na maisa, hu oppe in sinañgan i kanta, “Sa’ ya siña hu hagu’ hulu guahu finenina guatu”.

I pañgpañg pianu yan gitala mampos suabe na esta ha yute’ papa’ i hagian tatkilu’ haga’hu. Mañge’ na siñiente i dumeskansan ñaihonyu man-hassu trompison asuntun linahyan. Lau guiya este i mafanana’an deskansu ni todumumirese.

Maliñgo maigohu dispues hulie’ gi un’ ratu na guinefihu i amku’ hafaisenyu haf’ na mamposyu’ masogsug. Buente kulan ha besitayu’. Lau esta lokue’ gaigeyu’ i idat man-rusketi ‘nai mas paska te’lañghu, mueye’ timoghu yan maliñgu sensin koduhu. Komprendiyon sa’ todus siempre u fan malofan gi mismu chalan. Ni unu u soplu!

Sige si nana de ha hopyat i eskomen mai’es gi halom un’ palañggana estake nau’au asientoña. Ha rikohe ya ha guleg dispues ha pega gi mitate para una’ finu mas. Ha pada’ ya ha yotte gi hilu un’ maipen fina’ tepañg. Diberas na mañge’ titiyas piot i fresko na mai’es. Ha dobra si nana ya muna’lagu atmayas. De dios na pairen miriendan taloane. Mas paire ‘an ha tunu freskon guihan para gachonñ pagu mamasa na titiyas.

Letters to the Editor

Clarification

I was just reading your article from a veteran named Segundo Castro, and the supposed comments from Lathe K. Bragg, VA counselor with VRE. I was in the room that day in Stockton, I forget the name of the organization but it was on the waterfront there. I operated a VA program in Lodi as an employee of The Salvation Army. I witnessed this conversation first-hand. Mr. Bragg never told this man anything about putting his file at the bottom of the file due to contacting a congressman. His comments revolved around being reimbursed by VA for monies spent on training. If your receipts and claim was not in order, it may be placed at the bottom, and claims in order will obviously be processed first. I seem to recall the individual in question stating he wanted to become an ambassador or something to some consulate in the Middle East. Mr. Bragg had a conversation with this gentleman, but he *never* told anyone that their case would not be granted favorably. That completely goes against the whole purpose of his visit that day.

Michael Wolt

via email

Business

AP-GfK Poll: People divided on looming debt crisis

WASHINGTON (AP)—It might be time for another midnight ride by Paul Revere, this time warning “the creditors are coming.”

Americans seem not to have awakened to the fast-looming debt crisis that could summon a new recession, imperil their stock market investments and shatter faith in the world’s most powerful economy. Those are among the implications, both sudden and long-lasting, expected to unfold if the U.S. defaults on debt payments for the

first time in history.

Facing an August deadline for raising the country’s borrowing limit or setting loose the consequences, politicians and economists are plenty alarmed. The people? Apparently not so much.

They’re divided on whether to raise the limit, according to an Associated Press-GfK poll that found 41 percent opposed to the idea and 38 percent in favor.

People aren’t exactly blasé. A narrow majority in the poll

expects an economic crisis to ensue if the U.S., maxed out on its borrowing capacity, starts missing interest payments to creditors. But even among that group, 37 percent say no dice to raising the limit.

In Washington’s humid air, talk of a financial apocalypse is thick. There are warnings of “credit markets in a state of panic,” as the House Budget Committee chairman, Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., put it, causing a sudden drop-off in the country’s ability to borrow and pushing

the government off a “credit cliff.” He was characterizing a report by the government’s non-partisan Congressional Budget Office that warns of a “sudden fiscal crisis” in which investors might abandon U.S. bonds and force the government to pay steep interest rates and impose spending cuts and tax increases far more Draconian than if default were avoided. The dire warnings appear to be falling on unconvinced ears, at least so far. Call it doomsday fatigue.

In recent times, Americans

heard that things were going to go haywire with the turn of the millennium, and they didn’t. They were primed for post-Sept. 11 terrorist plots that did not unfold.

They’ve seen Congress, a lumbering body that gets fleet of foot at the last minute, come to the brink time after time, only to pull something out of its hat. Recently, a partial government shutdown was averted in that manner.

To Robin Knight, 50-year-old teacher from Gilbert, Ariz., who’s trying to stay informed on the debt crisis, Washington’s tendency to cry wolf and stage

histrionics on issues of the day isn’t helping.

“It should be very easy to understand,” she said, “but I think there are so many skewed views and time given to people screaming that it can be hard to follow.”

As during the lead-up to the government shutdown that didn’t happen, tortured negotiations are under way.

Republican leaders are insisting on huge spending cuts as a condition for raising the debt limit. This position finds solid support from Republicans in the poll and backing from a plurality of independents.

Drivers catch a break as gasoline prices fall

NEW YORK (AP)—A summer road trip may not be such a bad idea after all.

Gasoline prices are falling fast. In the past 7 weeks, the average U.S. retail prices has dropped 38 cents to \$3.60 per gallon. Another 25-cent drop is expected by mid-July.

When prices approached \$4 in early May, drivers were worried that \$5 gasoline was a possibility this summer. But since then, oil prices have collapsed, the result of slowing economic growth in developed countries, weaker demand for oil and gas and this week’s decision by the U.S. and other countries to release 60 million barrels of oil from strategic reserves. Economists say falling prices will benefit consumers by leaving money in their wallets, and making them feel freer to spend on travel, shopping and dining.

Ron Meyers, 51, a handyman from Little Rock, Ark., was doubtful that he could afford the drive to visit family in Pennsylvania. Now, thanks to cheaper gas, the trip is on. And he plans on seeing a few more summer movies, too.

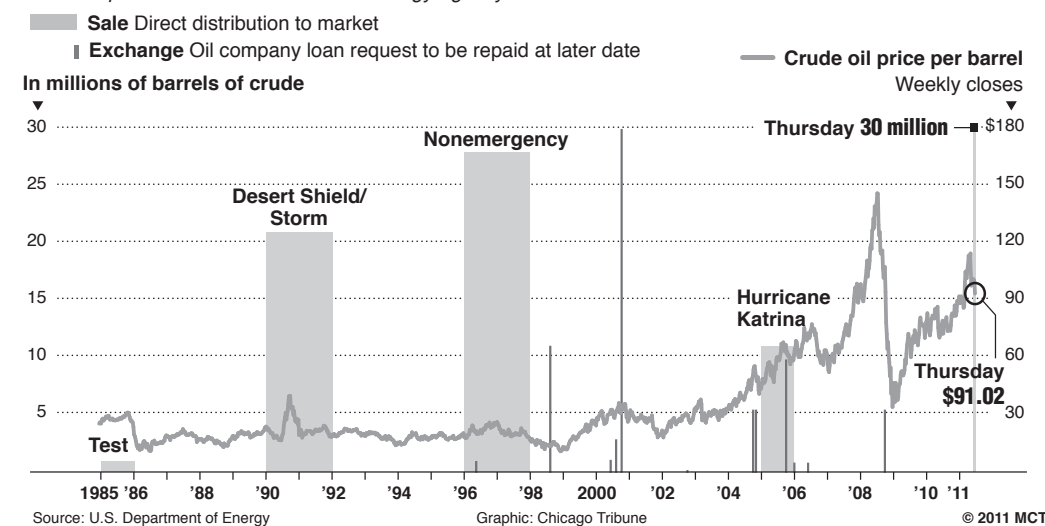
“You can go out and have a good time, and have a little money left in your pocket,” he said.

Economists say that while, for instance, a 25-cent-per-gallon drop only saves the typical driver \$12.50 per month, it has a huge effect both on the economy as a whole and on the psychology of consumers.

Naveen Agarwal, who helps

When the reserves were tapped

The U.S. will release 30 million barrels of oil from its reserves onto the world market to offset reduced Mideast production. The International Energy Agency will release another 30 million barrels.



In this June 22, 2011 photo, Susan Bridges pumps gas into her car at a Little Rock, Ark., Conoco Phillips station.

small businesses and car companies manage fuel costs as CEO of Pricelock, in Redwood City, Calif., said he expects drivers will travel farther distances this summer than originally planned. And they’ll spend as they go.

“They’ll be a little bit more liberal about their consumption instead of just having a barbeque in their back yard,” Agarwal said.

Instead of thinking of ways to cut back, the Dykstra family of Orange City, Iowa, will now be able to spend a little more on meals and souvenirs when it visits Chicago.

“We actually budgeted for \$5 a gallon,” Mark Dykstra, 46, a supermarket assistant manager who will be travelling with his three teenage children, said earlier this week.

(See: Europe debt crisis shadows Fed meeting on economy)

For the first five months of the year, gasoline prices went in one direction: up. Growing economies, especially in Asia, burned more gasoline, diesel and jet fuel. Turmoil in the Middle East and North Africa prevented oil from reaching the market and scared oil traders into bidding prices higher.

Oil peaked at \$114 per barrel in April. It’s now at \$91 per barrel after a 2 percent drop this week.

Energy economists and Wall Street investment bankers caution that oil is likely to rise above \$100 again next year, particularly if oil producers struggle to meet rising global demand. Hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico or further unrest in the Middle East could also boost prices.

Ad for Walkers potato chips wins award at Cannes

By ELLEN GIBSON
AP RETAIL WRITER

Recruiting a former Baywatch star to hand out free potato chips and beer may sound like a cheap publicity stunt, but for one British brand, it actually helped boost sales. Judges at a major awards ceremony for the advertising industry in France this weekend evaluated marketing campaigns for the first time on how much product they sold, not just whether they made

people laugh, cry or cringe. The grand-prize winner, a U.K. campaign for PepsiCo’s Walkers potato chips, brought Pamela Anderson and other celebrities into the sleepy British town of Sandwich, Kent, to illustrate the tagline: “Walkers can make any sandwich more exciting.” In the days following the event, footage of the surprise appearances and the residents’ shocked reactions got spread around on sites like YouTube. The new prize for effectiveness, handed out Satur-

day at the Cannes Lions International Festival of Creativity, signals a shift toward greater accountability for ads. It also comes at a time when advertising agencies are fighting for every dollar they can get.

Corporate marketing budgets were slashed by 8 percent during the Great Recession, and that spending still hasn’t come back, according to Zenith Optimedia, a research division of communications giant Publicis Groupe.

“You have to prove you got

someone to pay attention and act, particularly in this economy,” said Chris Kempeczinski, Kraft Foods’ senior vice president of marketing, who helped judge the category.

The Walkers campaign did just that. To win in the effectiveness category, an ad had to show a proven impact on “consumer behavior, brand equity, sales, and where identifiable, profit.” Judges combed through more than 150 nomination forms audited by PriceWaterhouseCoopers.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

UK in sprout warning after French E. coli outbreak

LONDON (AP)—British officials warned consumers Saturday against eating uncooked sprouts after authorities in France linked seeds distributed by an English vendor to an E. coli outbreak near the city of Bordeaux. France halted the sale of fenugreek, mustard and arugula sprout seeds from British mail order seed and plant company Thompson & Morgan after eight people were hospitalized following an E. coli outbreak. French investigators found that two of them were sickened after consuming sprouts from the three seed types in the southwestern town of Begles, a suburb of Bordeaux. Some of those affected were infected by the same strain of E. coli that has killed 44 people—all but one in Germany—and sickened more than 3,700 in recent weeks.

Obama pitches plan to promote high-tech innovation

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama says technological innovations can help create jobs and spur growth in clean energy and advanced manufacturing. In his radio and Internet address, the president promoted a plan he outlined Friday in which the government would join with universities and corporations to re-ignite the manufacturing sector with an emphasis on cutting-edge research and new technologies. “Their mission is to come up with a way to get ideas from the drawing board to the manufacturing floor to the marketplace as swiftly as possible, which will help create quality jobs, and make our businesses more competitive,” Obama said in the address aired Saturday. It was taped Friday during his visit to Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, where he saw a display of mini-robots that explore water and sewer pipes.

Regulators shut small Georgia bank; 48th in 2011

WASHINGTON (AP)—Regulators on Friday shut down a small bank in Georgia, boosting to 48 the number of U.S. bank failures this year as the economy struggled and bad loans piled up. The pace of closures has slowed, however, as the economy improves and banks work their way through the bad debt. By this time last year, regulators had closed 86 banks. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. seized Mountain Heritage Bank in Clayton, Ga., with \$103.7 million in assets and \$89.6 million in deposits. First American Bank and Trust Co., based in Athens, Ga., agreed to assume the assets and deposits of the failed bank. In addition, the FDIC and First American Bank and Trust Co. agreed to share losses on \$69.2 million of Mountain Heritage Bank’s loans and other assets. The failure of Mountain Heritage Bank is expected to cost the deposit insurance fund \$41.1 million.

Harvard MBA program sees largest female percentage

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP)—Early statistics are showing that this year’s incoming MBA class at the Harvard Business School will have its greater percentage of women. The school said this week that of the 918 students in the MBA class of 2013, 39 percent will be female. Women comprised 36 percent of the enrolled MBA students in the two previous classes. School spokesman Brian Kenny said the school’s admissions strategy has evolved over the last several years on trying to find ways to increase diversity. He said Harvard Business School has no fixed targets when it comes to industry, geographical, or gender representation. In addition, the class of 2013 will see greater representation from students with backgrounds in science, engineering, and manufacturing, leading to fewer students hailing from consulting and finance.

Nation

Officials confirm 6 dead in Nevada Amtrak crash

SPARKS, Nev. (AP)—Nevada officials said Saturday that investigators had confirmed six deaths after a semi-truck slammed into an Amtrak train a day earlier on a rural Nevada highway.

The Churchill County Sheriff's Office said in a release late Saturday that officials were working to confirm the victims' identities and notify family members.

Amtrak's California Zephyr was en route from Chicago to Emeryville, Calif., with some 200 passengers and 14 crew members when the accident occurred late Friday morning about 300 miles east of its destination.

Nevada Highway Patrol Trooper Dan Lopez said that the truck driver and an Amtrak conductor were among the confirmed dead in the crash. About 20 people were injured and able to escape.

Earl Weener (WAY'-nur),



In this photo provided by Ron Almgreen, passengers and Amtrak train staff are seen at the site of a collision between an Amtrak westbound train and a truck on U.S. 95 about 4 miles south of Interstate 80 on Friday, June 24, 2011, 70 miles east of Reno, Nev.

of the National Transportation Safety Board, also said late Saturday at a news conference in Sparks, Nev., that about 28 people remained unaccounted for, but he added that some passengers may have gotten off the train before the accident or been able to leave the scene and not informed authorities.

Sixteen National Transportation Safety Board investigators took over at the scene Saturday and are expected to take up to a year to pinpoint the cause of the crash.

Lopez said the investigation would focus on the truck driver, whose rig crashed through a crossing gate before plowing into the Amtrak car. A witness told authorities that the crossing gates and warning signals were working at the time.

"That's what everybody wants to know. Why did the truck collide with the train?" Lopez said. "Unfortunately,

since he was pronounced dead, he's the only one who can tell us that prior to the investigation."

Following medical evaluations or treatment, most passengers continued their travel west on chartered buses or chose to make their own arrangements, Amtrak said in a news release.

Eugene Rheault of Manchester, N.H., was on a trip from Yellowstone National Park to San Francisco when the accident occurred.

"My wife and I were playing cards in the observation deck when there was a big bang and an explosion and an unbelievable amount of fire went by the

window," Rheault told the Reno Gazette-Journal. "It scared the living daylights out of me."

Alex Graham, 18, of Fort Wayne, Ind., was reading a book while on a trip to the West Coast with his mother when the Amtrak was hit.

"And then a wall of fire went by the window," he said. "I could feel the heat instantly."

Passengers have provided conflicting accounts of which car was hit, ranging from the second to fourth car.

The collision was on a portion of tracks that cross U.S. 95 about three miles south of Interstate 80.



ACROSS THE NATION

Funerals for 2 victims in NY pharmacy slayings

NEW YORK (AP)—Funerals have been held for a pharmacist and a customer gunned down in the Father's Day massacre at a pharmacy on Long Island. Friends and family mourned pharmacist Raymond Ferguson and Jaime Taccetta on Saturday in separate services. The funeral for the 45-year-old Ferguson was held in Forest Hills, Queens, while the 33-year-old Taccetta was remembered at services in Lake Ronkonkoma (ron-KONK'-uh-muh). Authorities say they were killed along with two other people on June 19 at Haven Drugs in Medford, N.Y., by a man seeking to rob painkillers. David Laffer is charged with first-degree murder and resisting arrest charges in the shooting. His wife, Melinda Brady, is charged with robbery and obstruction charges. Funerals were held Friday for the two other victims—17-year-old Jennifer Mejia and 71-year-old Bryon Sheffield.

Ind. basketball standout survives 2nd plane crash

DETROIT (AP)—A standout Indiana high school basketball player with the promise of playing at the University of Michigan is fighting for his life after surviving the second plane crash of his young life. Austin Hatch, 16, of Fort Wayne, Ind., was in critical condition Saturday in a northern Michigan hospital after the Friday evening crash that killed his father, Dr. Stephen Hatch, and his stepmother, Kim. Austin and his pilot father had survived a 2003 crash that killed Austin's mother and two siblings. Dan Kline, the basketball coach at Canterbury School in Fort Wayne, Ind., told The Associated Press that the next 24 to 48 hours are going to be critical, and described Austin as an A student who is physically and

mentally strong—someone "who can handle things."

5 shot and injured in SF; Police seeking gunman

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Police in San Francisco say five people have been shot and injured and they are looking for a suspect. Police spokesman Lt. Troy Dangerfield says a gunman fired shortly after 6 p.m. Saturday night near Market Street and Sixth Street. Two people were hit in the torso and are being treated for serious injuries at a hospital. Three others are being treated for minor injuries. The shooting was a few blocks from the city's Gay Pride festivities at the Civic Center, which had just ended for the day. There was no immediate word on whether the incident had any connection to festival goers. Police say they are searching for a suspect who Dangerfield described as a 6-foot-tall man in his 20s with dreadlocks.

1 dead, 6 hurt as vehicle hits Calif. nursing home

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP)—One person was killed and six others were injured Saturday when a woman visiting a relative at a nursing home crashed her vehicle into the building, authorities said. The crash around 9:45 a.m. at the Amberwood Gardens Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center appears to have been an accident. It may have occurred when the driver, who was not injured, mistook the gas pedal for the brake, San Jose police Sgt. Jason Dwyer told the San Jose Mercury News. At least two of the injuries were considered serious, authorities said. The victims' names have not been released, but Amberwood Director Stephen Hooker told the Mercury News that the person who was killed was an 88-year-old woman. The driver has not been identified.

Pa. man found guilty of killing 3 Pittsburgh cops

PITTSBURGH (AP)—A man described by prosecutors as a malcontent weapons enthusiast and expert marksman was found guilty of three counts of first-degree murder and 25 lesser counts in the 2009 killings of three Pittsburgh police officers who responded to his mother's 911 call about their escalating argument over his puppies, which had urinated on the floor. The jury deliberated just over three hours before returning the verdict against 24-year-old Richard Poplawski. He will return to court Monday so the same jury can hear evidence

about his mental state, background and other issues before deciding if he deserves the death penalty or life in prison without parole on the murder counts, the three most serious charges he faced.

About 50 Pittsburgh police officers lined the hallway outside Allegheny County Judge Jeffrey Manning's courtroom and burst into applause when Deputy District Attorney Mark Tranquilli emerged victorious.

"We're not just dealing with three victims' families here," Tranquilli said of the police reaction to the verdict. "I think the

fourth family is nearly the entire law enforcement community in Allegheny County."

The dead officers' families were led from the courtroom by sheriff's deputies and hugged many of the police lined up in the hallway as they left. They did not comment and were expected to say little until after the jury decides whether Poplawski receives a death sentence sometime next week.

Poplawski's public defender, Lisa Middleman, was not surprised by the verdict given the overwhelming evidence against him, including

a confession, vast amounts of spent weapons shells and other crime scene evidence, and statements by several officers and neighbors who witnessed the fatal shootings or the gun battle with SWAT officers that followed.

Middleman called no witnesses and introduced just a few photos to attempt to show that police altered the crime scene by tramping through blood or moving other evidence as they moved in to arrest Poplawski. By contrast, Tranquilli called 41 witnesses and introduced 500 exhibits.

Wedding plans bloom as NY legalizes gay marriage

NEW YORK (AP)—As the news flashed around the globe that New York state had legalized gay marriage, New York fashion designer Malcolm Harris didn't waste any time. He dashed off a Twitter message to his boyfriend of nine years: "Will you marry me?"

A city away, in Boston, Bernadette Smith decided to immediately relocate her business planning gay weddings to New York City.

In Brooklyn, pastors Ann Kansfield and Jennifer Aull received their first two requests to wed gay couples at their church in the borough's Greenpoint section. They scheduled one for Labor Day weekend. Even as supporters of gay marriage celebrated victory in New York on Saturday, preparations were being made to make gay weddings a reality in the state. Couples who had talked about going

out-of-state to wed changed their plans. Reception venues got their first calls. Churches that accept gay unions said they were looking forward to hosting ceremonies.

After a lifetime of waiting, there was a sense of urgency.

The law signed by Gov. Andrew Cuomo late Friday night doesn't take effect for 30 days, but Harris—who got a "yes" to his Twitter proposal—said he and fiancée K. Tyson Perez

planned to get a marriage license right away, wed on paper, and then have a blowout reception in six months.

"I can't wait to spend the rest of my life with him," Harris said.

"This is going to be as traditional as it gets. We're going to do it at the Four Seasons, a place that is like gay church to me," he added about the atmospheric restaurant where he planned to hold the event.

Romney, Bachmann lead in 2012 Iowa caucus poll

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—A new Iowa Poll shows national Republican presidential frontrunner Mitt Romney and tea party favorite Michele Bachmann leading among the state's likely GOP caucus-goers.

The poll conducted for The Des Moines Register shows Romney, the former Massachusetts governor, with support from 23 percent in Iowa. Bachmann, the Minnesota representative who plans to

launch her campaign in Iowa on Monday, has support from 22 percent.

Romney was the No. 2 finisher in the caucuses in his bid for the 2008 GOP nomination. Bachmann is a three-term congresswoman and newer face in the 2012 White House mix.

The results are based on telephone interviews with 400 likely Republican Iowa caucus-goers from June 19 to 22. It has a margin of error of plus or mi-

nus 4.9 percentage points.

Romney has said he plans to run a scaled-down Iowa campaign, compared to the all-out, \$10-million effort he waged for the 2008 caucuses.

Tim Pawlenty has been the most aggressive about campaigning in Iowa, having lined up top Iowa and national consultants, been a frequent visitor to the state and ran the 2012 campaign's first Republican candidate television advertise-

ments last week.

However, only 6 percent of Iowa Republicans expected to attend the 2012 caucuses prefer the former Minnesota governor as their choice, according to the poll.

Former U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich, whose campaign has struggled since widespread staff departures this month, has support from 7 percent, the same as Texas Representative Ron Paul.

Asia

Car bomber kills 35 at Afghan clinic

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A suicide car bomber blasted a small clinic Saturday in eastern Afghanistan, causing the building to collapse as mostly women and children lined up for vaccinations, maternity care and other services. At least 35 people were killed in one of the deadliest attacks against civilians this year.

Guards saw a sport utility vehicle charging toward the Akbarkhail Public Medical Center, a compound that provides health care for the mountainous

area in the Azra district of Logar province. But before anyone could shoot the driver or blow out the tires, the SUV smashed through a wall and exploded, local officials said.

Wary of being blamed for civilian casualties, the Taliban denied it was behind the bombing. Violence has been on the rise since the Islamic movement launched its spring offensive and promised retaliation for the death of al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden.

"This attack was not done by

our fighters," Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid told The Associated Press in a telephone interview.

Survivors of the blast and others who heard the explosion frantically dug through the rubble with shovels and bare hands. At least 35 bodies were pulled from the debris and 53 other people were wounded, provincial public health director Dr. Mohammad Zaref Nayeckhail said.

The victims—most women and children—included patients, visitors, and medical staffers.

Ill penguin stranded in NZ is offered a lift home

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—A young emperor penguin stranded in New Zealand has survived two medical procedures and now has an offer of a lift home.

Yet the aquatic bird that many are calling Happy Feet—after the lighthearted 2006 movie—is not out of danger yet. The penguin remained on an intravenous drip Saturday and faces another procedure Monday to remove more sand from its digestive system.

If it does pull through, a businessman wants to take it by boat to Antarctica next February.

Happy Feet arrived on Peka Peka Beach, about 40 miles (65 kilometers) northwest of Wellington, last Monday, the first time in 44 years that an emperor penguin has been spotted in the wild in New Zealand. Typically, emperors spend their entire lives in and around Antarctica.

At first Happy Feet seemed fine, but as the week progressed, the bird became more lethargic. It ate a lot of sand, apparently mistaking it for snow, which emperor penguins eat in Antarctica to hydrate themselves during the frozen winters.

By Friday, conservation of-



This photo released by the Wellington Zoo, Dr. Lisa Argilla, Manager Veterinary Science, examines a emperor penguin at the Wellington Zoo on June 24, 2011 in Wellington, New Zealand.

officials decided its condition had worsened to the point that it would likely die without intervention. So they transported the penguin in a tub of ice to the Wellington Zoo.

Zoo spokeswoman Kate Baker said the bird was put on an-

esthesia for 2 1/2 hours Friday while veterinarians flushed its throat and stomach with water to remove sand. A second procedure on Saturday was more of the same, yet the penguin's digestive system still remained clogged.

ASIAN BRIEFS

26 charged in Shanghai fire, blamed on corruption

BEIJING (AP)—Prosecutors in China's commercial hub of Shanghai have charged 26 people with bribery and other crimes related to an apartment-building fire that killed 58 people last year, a local government website reported Saturday. Officials say welders caused the fire by ignoring safety precautions. Those charged include government officials, construction company heads and supervisors, and welders who lacked the proper qualifications, a report on the No. 2 branch of the Shanghai Municipal People's Procuratorate website said. The 26 suspected face up to four charges each, including bribery and misuse of power.

Militants raid Pakistan police station; 10 killed

DERA ISMAIL KHAN, Pakistan (AP)—Two militants attacked a police station in northwest Pakistan on Saturday, fighting gunbattles before blowing themselves up during a five-hour standoff that killed at least 10 officers, authorities said. The Pakistani Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack that involved a female suicide bomber, saying it was partly in revenge for the U.S. raid that killed Osama bin Laden. After the militants

entered the police station in Kolachi, TV footage showed black-clad security squads armed with rifles scrambling into positions around the facility. Three explosions rocked the scene in quick succession, setting off plumes of smoke into the sky. At least 10 police officers died, while five others were wounded during the siege.

US extradites fugitive Philippine police officer

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—U.S. authorities have extradited a former Filipino police officer who has served a jail term for illegal possession of classified documents in the United States but was separately sought in the Philippines for charges related to 2000 twin killings, officials said. A handcuffed Michael Ray Aquino arrived under heavy guard Sunday at Manila's international airport and was whisked by a long security convoy to detention at Manila's National Bureau of Investigation to face charges of his alleged involvement in the November 2000 abductions and killings of a prominent publicist and his driver. Aquino said in an arrival statement that he was innocent of the killings of Salvador Dacer, a publicist who represented top politicians, and his driver, Emmanuel Corbito.

World

LIBYAN STATE MEDIA SAYS:

NATO airstrike kills 15 people

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)—Libyan authorities accused NATO of killing 15 people in an airstrike Saturday that they said hit a restaurant and bakery in the east, though the alliance denied the report. It was the latest outcry from Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi's government blaming NATO for killing civilians amid a four-month uprising that has sparked a civil war. NATO insists it does all it can to avoid such casualties.

Meanwhile, rebel representatives said their fighters were coordinating around the country for the "zero hour" when their forces would reach the capital of Tripoli.

The rebels said they have been working to cut fuel supplies from the Tunisian border in an attempt to paralyze Gadhafi's forces. Rebels also are making homemade bombs and trying to ferry other weapons to their comrades in Tripoli, a spokesman for an underground guerrilla group there said.

Libya's state news agency quoted a military official in Gadhafi's forces as saying that

NATO warplanes hit a number of civilian sites Saturday in the oil town of Brega, including a restaurant and a bakery.

The official said 15 civilians were killed and 20 wounded in the strike. The JANA news agency also claimed five civilians were killed Friday in Brega as well.

NATO said it did not carry out any strikes in the area on Saturday.

A NATO official said alliance warplanes did hit several targets in the vicinity of Brega on Friday but that there was no evidence civilians had been killed or wounded.

"We have no indications of any civilian casualties in connection with these strikes," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media on the record. "What we know is that the buildings we hit were occupied and used by pro-Gadhafi forces to direct attacks against civilians around Ajdabiya."

Ajdabiya is a city between Brega and the rebel stronghold

of Benghazi to the northeast.

NATO said it hit multiple military command sites Friday near Brega, which has been a frequent flashpoint between rebels and Gadhafi's forces.

Endangered Puerto Rican parrot rising



In this photo taken Thursday June 23, 2011, a Puerto Rican parrot is pictured inside a fly cage at El Yunque National Forest protected habitat in Luquillo, Puerto Rico.

EL YUNQUE NATIONAL FOREST, Puerto Rico

(AP)—Deep amid the dense greenery of a rain forest, down an unmarked road, behind a barbed wire fence in a low-slung compound monitored by security cameras, government scientists are nursing a special patient back to health.

The patient is on pain medication, but lucid enough to ruffle his emerald green feathers and fill the room with angry squawks when a biologist removes him from an incubator. It is a Puerto Rican parrot with a broken leg, a serious injury for one of the world's most endangered bird species.

In the past, the prognosis would have been grim. "That probably would have been a dead bird," said Jafet Velez, a biologist who manages the Puerto Rican parrot breeding center in the El Yunque National Forest, one of two such facilities on the island. The injured bird, a 2-month-old known only as Number 111405, faces an extended stay in the avian equivalent of intensive care and may need surgery. But it is likely to survive. The outlook is increasingly positive as well for the entire species, which has hovered near extinction for decades, with slightly more than a dozen left in the wild at one point.

"Everything is moving in a positive direction," said Tom White, a Fish and Wildlife biologist who helps manage the island's wild parrot populations.

Doubts about Chavez's health spur talk of possible successor

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Speculation that Hugo Chavez could be suffering from a serious illness is putting attention on a predicament for the president's allies: It's unclear who could step forward if he had to step down.

Few Venezuelans are talking publicly about the possibility of Chavez leaving office, partly because top government officials and close relatives have repeatedly said the president is recuperating in Cuba following surgery there two weeks ago.

Still, Chavez's silence and seclusion since the operation have spurred growing talk about his health, stirring fears among some supporters that their leader could be seriously ill.

The speculation has prompted some to ponder what would happen if failing health were to force Chavez to relinquish power. Until recently, even contemplating that possibility would have been considered absurd.

Under Venezuela's constitution, Vice President Elias Jaua would take the president's place during "temporary" absences of up to 90 days. And Jaua would serve the rest of Chavez's six-year term if the socialism-preaching president were to die or resign.

With a presidential election looming next year, such a sce-

nario might put Jaua and other ruling party leaders in a tough position.

None of Chavez's close confidants share his charisma and knack for connecting with Venezuela's poor majority. That constituency has ultimately decided elections in this politically divided South American country.

Steve Ellner, a political science professor at Venezuela's University of the East, believes the future of Chavez's political movement would largely depend on whether ill health prevented Chavez from designating a successor.

"There is no second-in-command in the Chavez movement," Ellner said. "If Chavez is unable to endorse anyone, there will inevitably be dissension."

Ellner said the situation would be much different if Chavez threw his support behind a would-be successor.

"There is a great sense of loyalty within the Chavez movement," he said. "If Chavez himself is unable to run for physical reasons, but endorses a given candidate, the movement will not fall apart."

While there are no obvious candidates, some observers believe the president might tap Jaua or Rafael Ramirez, Venezuela's energy minister.

Focus

NEW YORK (AP)—A wave of pharmacy robberies is sweeping the United States as desperate addicts and ruthless dealers turn to violence to feed the nation's growing hunger for narcotic painkillers.

From Redmond, Wash., to St. Augustine, Fla., criminals are holding pharmacists at gunpoint and escaping with thousands of powerfully addictive pills that can sell for as much as \$80 apiece on the street.

In one of the most shocking crimes yet, a robber walked into a neighborhood drugstore Sunday on New York's Long Island and gunned down the pharmacist, a teenage store clerk and two customers before leaving with a backpack full of pills containing hydrocodone.

"It's an epidemic," said Michael Fox, a pharmacist on New York's Staten Island who has been stuck up twice in the last year. "These people are depraved. They'll kill you."

Armed robberies at pharmacies rose 81 percent between 2006 and 2010, from 380 to 686, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration says. The number of pills stolen went from 706,000 to 1.3 million. Thieves are overwhelmingly taking oxycodone painkillers like OxyContin or Roxicodone, or hydrocodone-based painkillers like Vicodin and Norco. Both narcotics are highly addictive.

In New York state, the number of armed robberies rose from 2 in 2006 to 28 in 2010. In Florida, they increased nearly six-fold, from 11 to 65. California saw 61 robberies in 2010, Indiana had 45 and Tennessee had 38.

Most robbers don't hurt anyone, but authorities are worried the risk of bloodshed is increasing as assaults multiply. In September, a clerk was fatally shot in the chest and a pregnant woman wounded in the foot when a shootout broke out between a robber and an armed employee at a pharmacy in a suburb of Sacramento, Calif. In April, a gunman killed a pharmacist in Trenton, N.J., before stealing \$10,000 in pills.

The robberies mirror a national rise in the abuse of narcotic painkillers, DEA spokeswoman Barbara Carreno said.

"Drug addicts are always seeking ways to get their drugs," Carreno said. "Whenever there's an increase in a problem, you'll see it manifested in ways like this."

Prescription painkillers are now the second most-abused drugs after marijuana, with 7 million Americans using them illegally in the past month, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services says. The number of patients treated in emergency rooms for prescription drug overdoses more than doubled between 2004 and 2008, from 144,644 to 305,885.

Drug dealers may be turning to violence as authorities crack down on other ways of getting painkillers, Carreno said. Many states have launched introduced computer systems designed to prevent "doctor-shopping" by addicts, and federal investigations have shut down several shady Internet pharmacies.

That is believed to have spurred addicts to target small pharmacies like Haven Drugs in Medford, about 60 miles east of New York on Long Island.



Pharmacy robberies sweeping the nation

People line up outside Haven Drugs pharmacy—where four people were shot and killed during a botched weekend painkiller robbery in Medford, N.Y.—to view and bring flowers and memorials Wednesday, June 22, 2011. AP

Prosecutors say David Laffer, 33, walked into the drugstore on Sunday and opened fire without warning.

"He did not announce a robbery," Assistant District Attorney John Collins said. "He simply shot first after engaging the pharmacist in conversation."

Laffer shot 45-year-old pharmacist Raymond Ferguson once in the abdomen, then killed 17-year-old store clerk Jennifer Mejia before pumping two more shots into Ferguson, Collins said. Then he started pulling Norco and other hydrocodone drugs off the shelves, Collins said.

When customers Bryon Sheffield, 71, and Jamie Taccetta, 33, walked into the store, Laffer sneaked up behind them and shot them in the back of the head, Collins said.

Laffer is a former Army private who

once worked as an intelligence analyst. He had recently lost his job as a warehouse worker. Both he and his wife, Melinda Brady, were high when they were arrested on Wednesday at their home about a mile and a half from the pharmacy, police said. Brady was charged with driving the getaway car; both have pleaded not guilty to the

charges against them.

In posts on a wedding-related website, Brady said she had been taking different painkillers in the year before their January 2009 wedding because of several surgeries on her mouth. She added that it was taking a toll on her relationships.

It's a familiar pattern, said Andrew

Kolodny, president of Physicians for Responsible Opioid Prescribing, which advocates for more cautious use of narcotic painkillers. Many patients get addicted while taking a legitimate prescription and turn to crime after they lose their jobs and the insurance coverage that comes with them, he said.

"People with addiction who could be perfectly good people will do all sorts of horrible things to maintain their supply," Kolodny said.

Like Laffer, most pharmacy robbers are white males, said Richard Conklin, manager of RxPatrol.com, a website that tracks robberies. However, they come from all backgrounds and ages, he said.

In May, a 51-year-old man in a suit and tie approached a pharmacy counter in Boise, Idaho, and told the clerk he had something in his briefcase that he could "light the place up with" if the

store didn't give him OxyContin. He left with hundreds of pills.

In Lynchburg, Va., a 27-year-old man used a 3-foot-long samurai sword to rob a pharmacy in March.

Fox said he had two customers in his drugstore in Eltingville, a middle-class neighborhood of Staten Island, when a man broke in a rear door and forced him to the floor at gunpoint in April 2010.

"He put the gun to my head, and I thought it was over for me," Fox said. The robber made off with about \$4,000 of oxycodone.

In April 2010, another robber struck. Claiming he had a gun in his jacket pocket, he demanded bottles of oxycodone.

Fox handed over two bottles. The robber opened them to check the pills, then demanded more.

"I took a chance: I told him that was all I had," Fox said. The robber left without harming anyone, he said.

Robbers have also hit the nearby Annadale Family Pharmacy. A sign in the window there now says, "We do not stock oxycodone or Roxicodone."

Along with armed robberies, pharmacy associations say they are also seeing an increase in burglaries.

Keith Hodges, a pharmacist in Gloucester, Va., said his store has been broken into at least six times in recent years. One thief came through the roof by squeezing into an air conditioning shaft. Another used an electric saw to cut the knob off a steel door.

In April, a woman was caught in Billings, Mont., trying to smash in the bulletproof drive-through window of a Walgreens with a crowbar. Police said she had shards of glass on her clothing, a fresh cut on her head and her fingertips wrapped in bandages.

Rxpatrol.com, sponsored by OxyContin maker Purdue Pharma of Stamford, Conn., says it has tracked 1,258 pharmacy burglaries since 2002.

"I get nervous at night," Hodges said. "I stay late a lot, and you worry about what could happen."

Hodges said he's installed security cameras and alarms that are activated by the sound of someone breaking in. His employees wear wireless "panic buttons" that they can push to alert police.

The National Community Pharmacists' Association, which represents 23,000 independent drugstores, is distributing "height signs" to help employees record the height of robbers as they flee stores.

The Walgreens pharmacy chain is experimenting with medicine safes that delay several minutes before opening, in hopes that robbers won't have the patience to wait.

Some pharmacies are even considering installing bullet-proof windows like those found in many banks.

But Hodges, the Virginia pharmacist, worries that the security precautions are harming legitimate customers by lengthening the wait to fill prescriptions and eroding the relationship between pharmacists and patients.

If pharmacists are forced to work behind bulletproof glass, it will discourage customers from asking questions about their treatments, he said.

"The more a patient knows, the healthier they're going to be in the long run," Hodges said. "They need to have access to their pharmacist."

AP Enterprise

Health & Fitness

Study: Nearly 350 million diabetics worldwide

By MARIA CHENG
AP MEDICAL WRITER

LONDON (AP)—The number of adults worldwide with diabetes has more than doubled in three decades, jumping to an estimated 347 million, a new study says.

Much of that increase is due to aging populations—since diabetes typically hits in middle age—and population growth, but part of it has also been fueled by rising obesity rates.

With numbers climbing almost everywhere, experts said the disease is no longer limited to rich countries and is now a global problem. Countries in which the numbers rose fastest include Cape Verde, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Papua New Guinea, and the United States.

"Diabetes may well become the defining issue of global health for the next decade," said Majid Ezzati, chair of global environmental health at Imperial College

ON THE NET
<http://www.lancet.com>
<http://www.joslin.org>
<http://www.diabetes.org.uk>

London, one of the study authors.

He noted the figures don't reflect the generations of overweight children and young adults who have yet to reach middle age. That could create a massive burden on health systems.

"We are not at the peak of this wave yet," he said. "And unlike high blood pressure and cholesterol, we still don't have great treatments for diabetes."

Still, in Britain and elsewhere in Western Europe, despite growing waistlines, there was only a slight rise in diabetes. Experts weren't sure why and said there could be several reasons, including worse detection of the disease, genetic differences, or perhaps the Europeans were better at getting heavy people to reduce their chances of developing diabetes.

Women in Singapore, France, Italy and Switzerland remained relatively slim and had virtually no change in their diabetes rates. Numbers also stayed flat in sub-Saharan Africa, central Latin America and rich Asian countries.

Type 2 is the most common type of diabetes and is often tied to obesity. It develops when the body doesn't produce enough insulin to break down glucose, inflating blood sugar levels. The disease can be managed with diet, exercise and medication but chronically high blood sugar levels causes nerve damage, which can result in kidney disease, blindness and amputation.

For their estimate, Ezzati and colleagues examined more than 150 national health surveys and studies that tracked Type 2 diabetes in adults older than 25 in 199 countries and territories. They used modeling to estimate cases for another 92 countries.

They calculated there were 347



Photo dated Nov. 22 2006 of a patient undergoing a blood test for diabetes.

million people worldwide with diabetes. In 1980, there were 153 million. Their figures come with a big margin of error, ranging from 314 million to 382 million. A previous study using different methods estimated there were 285 mil-

lion people with diabetes in 2010.

The new study was paid for by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the World Health Organization. It was published Saturday in the journal *Lancet*.

Doctors warned the higher

susceptibility of certain groups like Asians, blacks and Hispanics to diabetes could dramatically boost future rates. "Other ethnicities don't have to be as obese as people of European descent to get diabetes," said Dr. Aaron Cypess, a staff physician at Joslin Diabetes Center. He was not linked to the *Lancet* study.

"It may be, for example, that Indians and Chinese store their fat in more dangerous places, like a pot belly," he said, theorizing that kind of abdominal fat can send out hormones to speed up diabetes.

But Cypess was optimistic the trend might be reversed, citing first lady Michelle Obama's fight against childhood obesity in the U.S. as an encouraging sign.

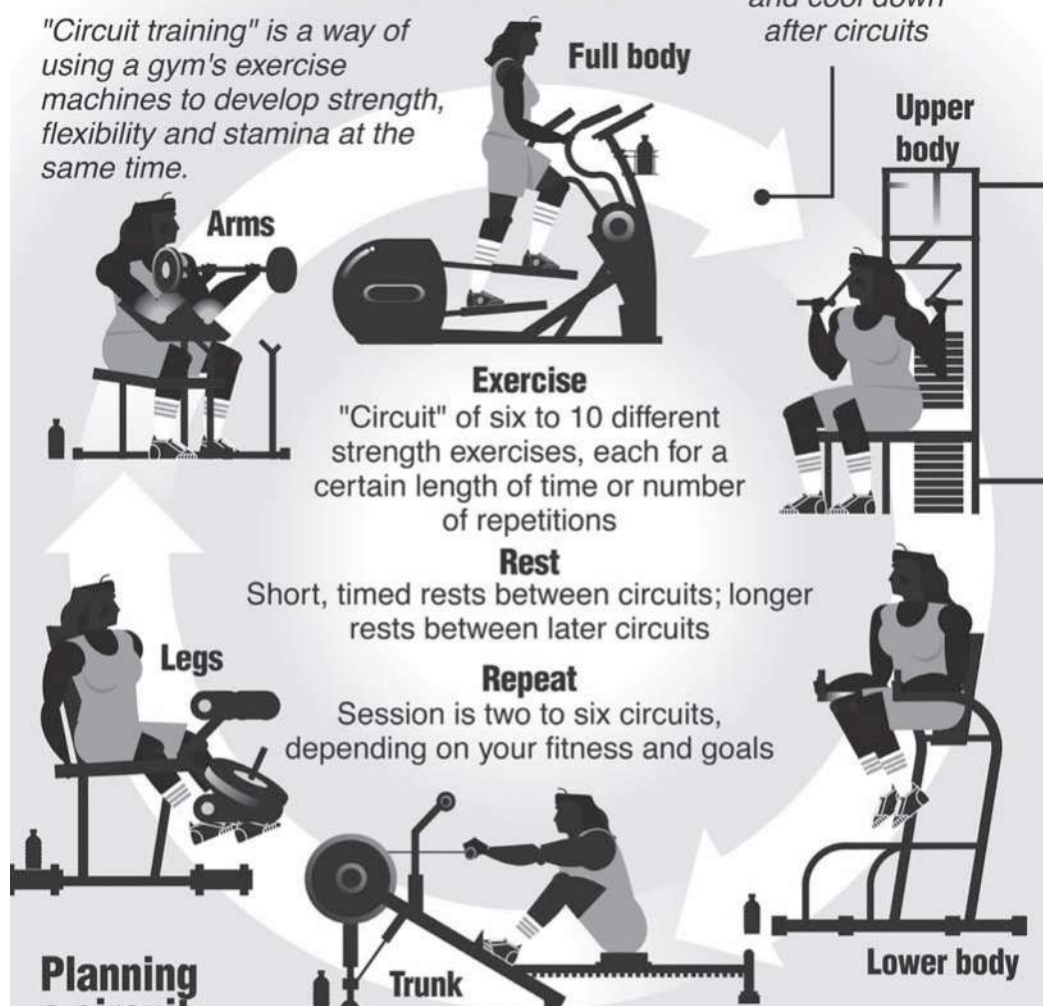
Iain Frame, director of research at Diabetes U.K., said the bigger challenge was simply to persuade people to adopt healthier lifestyles. "We have a fair idea of how to prevent Type 2 diabetes—you have to move more and eat less," he said. "But putting it into practice across a wide population is another question altogether."

Personal Trainer

Circle of exercises

"Circuit training" is a way of using a gym's exercise machines to develop strength, flexibility and stamina at the same time.

Warm up before
and cool down
after circuits



Planning a circuit

- List parts of body each piece of gym's equipment exercises
- Choose a sequence of exercises that don't work out same part of body twice consecutively

Example: Don't do pull-ups after dumbbell lifts

- Design three or four circuits of six to 10 exercises each
- Figure out repetitions and length of rests by testing how well you can do each exercise for short period; aim for about 50 percent of your maximum effort

Example: 20 to 30 sec. of each exercise with 30-sec. rests between; 3-min. rest between circuits



By LAURAN NEERGAARD
AP MEDICAL WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—A food pyramid just for the under-2 set? Contrary to popular belief, children don't usually outgrow their baby fat—and a new report urges steps to help prevent babies, toddlers and preschoolers from getting too pudgy too soon.

That's a growing problem: Already, one in five preschoolers—2- to 5-year-olds—is overweight or obese.

Topping the list of proposed changes: better guidelines to help parents and caregivers know just how much toddlers should eat as they move from baby food to bigger-kid fare. And making sure preschoolers get at least 15 minutes of physical activity for every hour they spend in child care.

These recommendations, from the Institute of Medicine, aren't about putting the very young on diets. But those early pounds can lead to lasting bad effects on their health as children grow, says the report.

"It's a huge opportunity to instill good habits at a time when you don't have to change old ones," said Leann Birch, director of Pennsylvania State University's Center for Childhood Obesity Research, who chaired the IOM panel.

Consider: Babies drink milk until they're full and then turn away. But children as young as 2 or 3 are sensitive to portion size, important in not inadvertently training them to overeat.

"If you give them larger portions, they eat more," Birch

explained.

Pediatricians generally give pretty explicit directions on how to feed babies. And the nation's dietary guidelines include a special section for preschoolers, including information that a portion size generally is about 1 tablespoon of each food type per year of age.

But overall, those national guidelines are aimed at ages 2 and older—though surveys show even very young children eat too few of the fruits and vegetables they need. So the institute called on the government to create consumer-friendly dietary guidelines for birth to age 2.

That would capture the "dramatic dietary transition that occurs, from consuming one single food to, by the time they're 2, ordering up things from McDonald's and, we hope, having also learned to eat a lot of healthy foods," Birch said.

But developing guidelines for these younger children is complex because their nutrition needs are based in part on developmental stage, he cautioned.

Of course, parents have the biggest influence over whether healthy eating and being active become a child's norm.

But the report makes the case that children's habits are influenced by far more than their parents—and thus it's time to expand obesity prevention to more of the other places youngsters spend time. For example, nearly three-fourths of children ages 2 to 5 spend at least part of their day in some form of child care.

Among the recommendations:

■ Day care and preschool operators should be trained in proper physical activity for young children, provide at least 15 minutes of it per hour, and avoid withholding physical activity as a punishment.

■ Child care regulations should limit how long toddlers and preschoolers sit or stand still to no more than 30 minutes at a time—and limit holding babies in swings, bouncy seats or other equipment while they're awake.

■ Day care and preschools should practice what's called responsive feeding: providing age-appropriate portion sizes, teaching children to serve themselves properly, requiring adults to sit with and eat the same foods as the children and following babies' cues as to when they've had enough.

■ Breastfed infants are less likely to become obese later in childhood, so doctors and hospitals should encourage breastfeeding and limit formula samples aimed at new moms.

■ At checkups, doctors should consider the parents' weight in assessing which children are at risk of later obesity, and then alert parents early that preventive steps are needed. About 10 percent of infants and toddlers already weigh too much for their length.

■ To increase healthful eating among the poorest children, the government should take steps to get more families who are eligible for federal nutrition-assistance programs to sign up.

Life & Style

Guam's Hufana bags first Queen Marianas tiara

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Twenty-three-year-old Trinity Hufana of Guam was crowned the winner of the first Queen Marianas Gay Pageant held at the Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan Saturday night.

Hufana bested six other candidates in the beauty and brains competition organized by A Ge'la & Friends Production Inc.

The environmental services technician at Guam Memorial Hospital impressed the three judges—Vorasuda Luna of DFS Saipan and Palau, Laila

Boyer of *Marianas Variety*, and Chrimsona Kaiser from Guam—with her answer in the Q&A portion.

Each of the top five candidates were asked, "If crowned Ms. Gay Marianas tonight, how will you carry yourself and what are your plans to be an active member or contributor of society?"

A pre-operative transgender, Hufana responded by saying that she will carry herself with respect despite the existence of those individuals who cannot accept them for who they are. "We are humans and we will always be here. We are here to stay," said Hufana, eliciting a roaring approval from the audience.

In an interview after the pageant, Hufana said she didn't ex-

pect to win the coveted crown.

"It even came as a big shock to me to be included in the Top 5," she told reporters. "It feels good knowing that the contest is not about one's size but about your willingness to help. So it's really special for me."

When asked what makes her stand out from the other candidates, Hufana exclaimed, "I won because I'm fat!"

Hufana, who arrived on island Wednesday for the pageant and left yesterday, said the event brought about more awareness about gays and, at the same time, fun.

"It's fun to get together, have some good fun, and enjoy each other's presence," she added.

During her reign, Hufana

plans to further promote her advocacies. She is an active volunteer for the Guam's Alternative Lifestyle Association, an LGBT group, and the manager of the Untouchables House of Diosa, an entertainment group that helps remove the stigma of negativity for transgenders.

Tinian's Payne Evangelista was declared first runner up and took home the Best in Fantasy Costume for her remarkable Filipiniana dress sponsored by Serenity Salon and Spa. Saipan's Miranda Kar, meanwhile, won second runner up.

Special awards were also given to Kim Kardashian who bagged Ms. Photogenic, Best in Lingerie, and Best in Evening Gown; and Milkshake, who was

voted Ms. Congeniality.

Production numbers during the pageant were provided by Demalynn Sablan, Project Impact, Kit Kat Crew, Rose Dance Group, Best in Talent winner Kardashian, and Joe Limes of KKMP.

John Manalo and Frankie Elipitico of the Northern Marianas College served as tabulators while Roxanne Weaver served as the host.

Proceeds for the pageant, which attracted 140 spectators who enjoyed a delicious dinner buffet for the \$25 entrance fee, will be donated to Operation Home Front, said A Ge'la & Friends Production Inc. president Elsa Duenas Nieto.

"It's a big issue. There's a war going on and our military per-

sonnel are deployed in different parts of the world. Even though you see a lot of support for the military, there's not a lot of dedication for them," she said.

Nieto said they were surprised to see a really good turnout for the pageant, considering the economic challenges in the Commonwealth these days.

"We plan to do this every year and we plan the children's ward at the hospital as our next beneficiary," she added.

Nieto, who worked with the candidates for eight months in preparation for the pageant, said she is proud of each one of them.

"They all improved their skills in so many ways and educated themselves about current issues in the Marianas," she said.



CLARISSA V. DAVID
Pageant judges Vorasuda Luna, Laila Boyer, and Chrimsona Kaiser pose with the winners of the Queen Marianas Gay Pageant at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Hibiscus Hall Saturday night.



CLARISSA V. DAVID
Tinian's Payne Evangelista dons a gown, sponsored by Serenity Salon and Spa, which won her the Best in Fantasy Costume.



CLARISSA V. DAVID
Queen Marianas candidates perform a dance number.



CLARISSA V. DAVID
Dayanara Torres is all smiles as she struts her white evening gown.



CLARISSA V. DAVID
Candidates for the Queen Marianas Gay Pageant show off their fantasy costumes.



CLARISSA V. DAVID
Milkshake smiles for the camera after accepting her Miss Congeniality award.



CLARISSA V. DAVID
Prosti La'hore is all patriotic in her flag-inspired costume.



CLARISSA V. DAVID
Kim Kardashian, who won Best in Talent, renders a lip synch song production number.

U2 hit by 'tax dodge' protest at Glastonbury fest

LONDON (AP)—U2 and its frontman Bono, known for their global poverty-fighting efforts, were accused of dodging taxes in Ireland by activists who crashed their performance Friday at England's Glastonbury festival.

The anti-capitalist group Art Uncut inflated a 20-foot (6-meter) balloon emblazoned with the message "U Pay Your Tax 2." Security guards wrestled them to the ground before deflating the balloon and taking it away. About 30 people were involved in the angry clash.

Bono fan Gary Noble, 45, said he found the security response "all a bit shocking."

"I love U2 but I think everyone should pay their taxes. The campaigners have a right to voice their opinion," he said.

Art Uncut argues that while Bono campaigns against poverty in the developing world, his group has avoided paying Irish taxes at a time when his austerity-hit country desperately needs money.

Ireland, which has already accepted an international bailout, is suffering through deep spending cuts, tax hikes and rising unemployment as it tries to pull the debt-burdened economy back from brink of bankruptcy.

"Tax(es) nestling in the band's bank account should be helping to keep open the hospitals, schools and libraries that are closing all over Ireland," Art Uncut member Charlie Dewar said ahead of the protest.

U2, the country's most successful band, was heavily criticized in 2006 for moving its

corporate base from Ireland to the Netherlands, where royalties on music incur virtually no tax.

Bono, guitarist The Edge and U2's other members—bassist Adam Clayton and drummer Larry Mullen—are among the country's wealthiest residents. Forbes magazine has estimated the band earned \$195 million last year, mostly through its hugely profitable "360 Degrees" world tour.

It's not known how much personal income tax the band members pay in Ireland.

During the years when Ireland was a booming "Celtic Tiger" economy, the members of U2 invested in a wide range of Dublin properties, including a luxury riverside hotel and a planned Norman Foster-de-

signed skyscraper on the River Liffey. Plans for the "U2 Tower" were shelved when property prices collapsed in 2008.

U2 is headlining the first night of the three-day Glastonbury festival, its first appearance at Britain's most prestigious summer music event. The band was due to perform last year but had to pull out after Bono injured his back.

Some 170,000 people have descended on a farm in southwest England for the extravaganza, which includes sets by Morrissey, Mumford & Sons, Coldplay, Beyonce and scores of other acts.

Rubber boots are the fashion item of choice after heavy rain turned the 900-acre (364-hectare) site into a mudbath. More rain is forecast for later Friday.



Bono of British rock band U2 performs at Glastonbury Music Festival in Glastonbury, Britain, Friday, June 24, 2011. AP

Jerry Lewis out of hospital; canceled Sydney show

SYDNEY (AP)—Jerry Lewis was hospitalized Friday after he was unable to perform at a show in suburban Sydney, but his publicist said he was simply overtired and was released after a few hours.

The 85-year-old actor, comedian and tireless advocate for muscular dystrophy research is on a fundraising tour for the Muscular Dystrophy Foundation Australia. He arrived at the Rooty Hill Returned Servicemen's League club, where he was to perform, but he couldn't get out of the

car, said Ian Lowe, the club's general manager.

The foundation said the Sydney show had been sold out. CEO David Jack apologized in a statement, saying that Lewis was "not well enough to take the stage," without elaborating.

Candi Cazau, Lewis' Las Vegas-based publicist, said he was in the hospital for about three hours before going back to his hotel room, and that doctors concluded that he

was simply overly tired.

"He's fine from what I understand," she said. "He was just feeling under the weather."

Cazau said Lewis' staff was being a bit cautious because Lewis contracted viral meningitis some years before during an earlier trip to Australia.

Lewis is the longtime chairman of the U.S. Muscular Dystrophy Association, which is separate from the Australian organization, and an-



Lewis

Colbert plays rock star, with Jack White as guide

NEW YORK (AP)—With Jack White as his guide, Stephen Colbert is living out his rock star dreams.

Colbert debuted his new single, "Charlene II (I'm Over You)" on "The Colbert Report" on Thursday night. Then, he took the song to the streets Friday, performing it again and signing copies for Colbert Nation groupies.

The song culminated Colbert's week-long "rock odyssey" series dubbed "Dr. Pepper Presents StePhest ColbChella '011—Rock You Like a Thirst-Icane."

After premiering the tune on his show, Colbert and White sold copies Friday in Manhattan from the "rolling record store" of White's Nashville-based Third Man Records—a truck that travels the country selling the label's music.

The former White Stripe frontman produced the track, with The Black Belles, a goth girl rock band on Third Man, performing backup.

The reference of the song is one only die-hard viewers of "The Report" likely grasp. It's a follow-up to his mock '80s new wave song, "Charlene (I'm Right Behind You)," a cheesy



Stephen Colbert, left, performs a song with Jack White in New York, Friday, June 24, 2011. AP

ballad sung from the perspective of a stalker.

Since 2006, Colbert has occasionally alluded to the song and suggested that before his conservative pundit character became a TV show host, he was the lead singer in a group called Stephen and the Colberts.

But the sequel, "Charlene II (I'm Over You)," has entered the real world. The song is being sold on iTunes and from Third Man Records, including

on vinyl copies. There's even a limited edition red-white-and-blue edition, with the vinyl dyed in the colors of the flag.

This is White's second collaboration with a late-night talk show host. Last year, he released a live rockabilly album with Conan O'Brien. White has been present in various segments all week on "The Report," playing a remarkably good straight man to Colbert.

Colbert, in turn, has taken ev-

nounced last month he was retiring as host of the Labor Day telethon that bears his name. He has battled a debilitating back condition, heart issues and pulmonary fibrosis. He

She said Lewis has had a "ridiculous" schedule in recent months. He has been flying back and forth from Las Vegas to New York, casting for the stage production of "The Nutty Professor," which he intends to debut in January.

"He looks, he sounds great—85 going on 50," she said.

Fergie shakes it at Paris fashion AIDS gala

PARIS (AP)—The Black Eyed Peas, Fergie, Miami Heat star Dwayne Wade and designers Marc Jacobs, Viktor Horsting and Rolf Snoeren added A-list sparkle to a sumptuous AIDS charity gala on the margins of Paris' menswear week.

An auction of luxury lots—including a red-crocodile covered bottle of Piper Heidsieck Champagne, invitations to haute couture fashion shows and VIP tickets to a Black Eyed Peas concert—fetched tens of thousands of dollars for the American Foundation for AIDS Research, a charity founded by the late Elizabeth Taylor.

Fergie and Dutch design duo Viktor & Rolf were honored for their contributions to the fight against AIDS at Thursday night's dinner, where other A-list guests included German-born actress Diane Kruger, burlesque dancer Dita Von Teese and actor Jeremy Iron's son, emerging model Max Irons.

Fergie tried to take to the stage to receive her award but was waylaid by her skirt, a

black Louis Vuitton number so narrow she couldn't lift her leg high enough to climb up the steps. Vuitton designer Jacobs, the man behind the hobbling garment, had to help her hop up the stairs.

Finally onstage, Fergie did a victory booty shake and waxed nostalgic about the start of her blockbuster career, saying she "never wanted to be a role model." But as she learned how she could use her celebrity to support causes that she cared about, "I learned to take responsibility for helping other people and started to make up for all the crap I used to do."

The evening also included performances by Irish singer Roisin Murphy and French duo Brigitte, whose head-to-toe sequin outfits stood out even among the outrageously dressed crowd. Other top looks included the two Paris party promoters wearing Swarovski-crystal-covered masks complete with bling bling antlers.

Last year, the first annual Paris amfAR gala raised \$180,000 for AIDS research.

Daniel Craig, Rachel Weisz date, marry quietly

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Daniel Craig and Rachel Weisz, who play husband and wife in an upcoming film, have taken the roles to heart.

Robin Baun of Slate PR, which represents Craig, said Saturday that the actor and Weisz have married. She did not offer any details.

The British actors had been quietly dating.

Craig is the latest James Bond and will star in "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo." Weisz won an Academy Award for

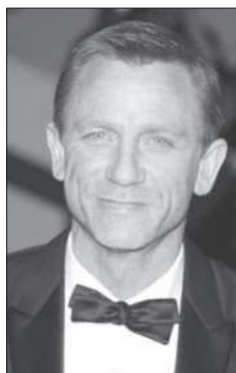
"The Constant Gardener" and starred in "The Mummy."

The pair costar as a married couple in the unreleased film "Dream House."

The 43-year-old Craig had a longtime girlfriend, Satsuki Mitchell, and has a daugh-

ter from a previous relationship. The 41-year-old Weisz was in a relationship with

director Darren Aronofsky ("Black Swan"), with whom she has a son.



Craig



Weisz

Colorado parks board OKs accord with artist Christo

SALIDA, Colo. (AP)—The Colorado State Parks Board approved an agreement Friday for the artist Christo to pay \$550,000 to state parks to carry out his Over the River project, which would suspend 5.9 miles worth of fabric panels over parts of the Arkansas River.

However, the agreement is moot if the Bureau of Land Management doesn't approve a federal permit for the project. The BLM hasn't made its decision yet.

Christo's project would use heavy equipment to help erect a system of cables and anchors to hang the fabric along U.S. 50.

The agreement approved by the parks board applies only to lands it manages. It says Christo's team would pay \$320,000 to cover State Parks' costs re-

lated to Christo carrying out his project, plus \$230,000 in recreation impact fees.

Over the River, which Christo envisioned with his late wife, Jeanne-Claude, has drawn support from art lovers but frustration from some wildlife advocates and river businesses. Opponents say hordes of tourists checking out the project and the work needed to erect it could stress wildlife, choke traffic and disrupt hunting, rafting and angling business.

In May, Colorado wildlife commissioners voted 9-0 in favor of sending a letter to the BLM opposing the project and urging federal officials to adopt measures to ease potential effects on bighorn sheep if they do issue a permit to Christo.

Billy the Kid tintype up for auction in Denver



AP

This photograph provided by Old West Show and Auction shows a photograph of a tintype of Billy the Kid taken in 1879 or 1880 in Fort Sumner, N.M.

DENVER (AP)—The iconic portrait of Billy the Kid that led to the mistaken belief that the outlaw was a southpaw is going up for sale this weekend.

A tintype image taken in 1879 or 1880 in Fort Sumner, N.M., showing the gunslinger with a Winchester rifle in his right hand and a Colt revolver holstered on his left is thought to be the only surviving depiction of the man also known as William

H. Bonney.

The portrait led those unaware that tintype photos are reverse images to assume he was a lefty. The misinformation was so widespread that Paul Newman played the outlaw in the 1958 Western "The Left-Handed Gun."

The portrait is set to be auctioned in Denver on Saturday at the 22nd Annual Old West Show & Auction.

John Carpenter returns to horror after 10 years

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The creator of Michael Myers and "Halloween" is returning to horror after a 10-year hiatus.

John Carpenter is back to his beloved genre with "The Ward," opening July 8. The film stars Amber Heard as woman who finds herself in a mysterious mental institution in the 1960s with no memory of her life before.

Carpenter, 63, calls it "a character study."

"It was the first feature opportunity that I had since 2001," he says. "It was a limited vision, a limited location, and limited cast. It was something I could do and thought it would be a lot of fun."

He took a break from filmmaking after 2001's "Ghosts

of Mars," saying he was "burned out."

"I was really tired from making movies," he says. "I thought, 'I got to stop for a while. I can't do this anymore.' And the public agreed with me, 'Stop.'"

But he couldn't stay stopped. He was drawn back to telling stories on the big screen and to horror, which he calls "a universal emotion that we all feel."

"Every person in every country, every human being alive feels, has the same fears. We all are brothers and sisters together in fear," he says. "Horror crosses international boundaries in terms of an audience. Sometimes comedy doesn't travel. Sometimes other dramas don't travel, they don't translate. But horror, fear does."

Adopted son's name change cuts real dad to the quick

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: My wife had an unhappy five-year marriage to her high school boyfriend. They divorced when their son, "Noah," was 20 months old. Then she met me, and we have been married for 34 happy years.

I adopted Noah with the consent of his birth father, who also remarried and had a family. My wife and I added a daughter to ours.

I was aware that Noah had re-established contact with his birth father and half-siblings. We supported it. But we were blindsided when Noah told us he plans to take back his original surname. He says it isn't "personal," but he wants his children to have their "rightful" name and know their "true" lineage.

Abby, we are hurt and confused. This has caused a painful rift in the family. Please help.

NOAH'S REAL DAD IN NEW YORK

Dear Abby

DEAR REAL DAD: I strongly believe that the people who raise a child are that child's "true" parents, regardless of whether the child meets his or her birth parents. Is there any ill will between you and Noah? Could there be money or prestige connected with Noah's birth father's name, which could account for what's happened?

After investing 34 years of yourself in that child, you have reason to feel hurt. Family counseling might smooth some of this over. I am sorry for your loss.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My 20th high school reunion is coming up, and I'm extremely excited. The main activity has been planned for the Saturday evening. One member of the reunion committee has been put in charge of scheduling other activities such as a picnic. She has planned a hike.

I love hikes, but the hike she has planned is a strenuous trail that gains 2,000 feet of altitude over three-quarters of a mile. My hometown is already at a high altitude, and for those of us who no longer live there, it takes some getting used to. And, quite honestly, not all of us are in good enough shape to do this kind of hike.

I'm disappointed that this woman is scheduling an activity that seems so noninclusive. Many of my classmates feel the same. Some of us have discussed making our own plans for a safer activity everyone can participate in. What are your thoughts? Can we plan alternative events on our own without offending the reunion committee?

CLASS OF '91 ALUMNA

DEAR ALUMNA: Rather than make alternative plans on your own, you and your former classmates who feel the hike would be too much should inform the reunion committee. Have the reunion committee come up with alternative plans for that afternoon. There could be medical reasons why some of you shouldn't indulge in strenuous activity (as well as lack of interest.) And remember, attendance at the reunion activities is voluntary, not compulsory.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Now that we have arrived at that time of year when weddings are at their peak, would you please let us know if written thank-yous are still appropriate and proper?

My husband's niece was married last December, and my mother-in-law told her, "No one sends thank-yous anymore." I thought that on this, above all occasions, a thank-you for a wedding gift is necessary. Or am I crazy?

TAKEN ABACK IN COLORADO

DEAR TAKEN ABACK: You're not crazy. A gift for ANY occasion should be acknowledged. The proper way to do that is in the form of a written note thanking the person. It does not have to be long, fancy or flowery—just sincere. And prompt!

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Princess Diana dress sold at Toronto auction

TORONTO (AP)—A dress worn by Princess Diana when she danced with John Travolta brought in the top bid at a Toronto auction that featured some of late princess' well-known designer gowns. The midnight-blue silk velvet dress designed by Victor Edelstein sold for 800,000 Canadian dollars (\$821,000). Diana wore the Edwardian-inspired gown with off-the-shoulder straps while taking a memorable spin on the dance floor with Travolta during a 1985 White House state dinner. Prior to Thursday night's sale, auction house Waddington's had listed the estimated selling price of the dress between 800,000 Canadian dollars and 1 million Canadian dollars. Stephen Ranger, vice president of business development for Waddington's, says it will take a few days to compile a final tally of all 14 dresses sold at the collection. Princess Diana died in a car crash in 1997.

Miranda Lambert to perform on NBC's 'The Voice'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Miranda Lambert is stepping into new husband Blake Shelton's territory. On next Wednesday's season finale of NBC's hit singing contest, "The Voice," Lambert will perform a duet with the finalist who was on Shelton's team, Dia Frampton. Lambert, a Grammy winner for her single "The House That Built Me," said she was "thrilled" to be part of "The Voice." "It's been a joy watching my husband grow so attached to his team. Truthfully, I am a little jealous that I am not a coach myself. I can't wait to be a part of it," she said. Country superstars Lambert and Shelton were married last month. "The Voice" also features Christina Aguilera, Maroon 5's Adam Levine and Cee Lo Green as coaches to their own groups of would-be pop stars. The other finalists competing with Frampton are Javier Colon, Beverly McClellan and Vicci Martinez. The four will perform next Tuesday, with the viewers' choice to be announced on the finale the following night. The winner gets a record contract and a \$100,000 prize.

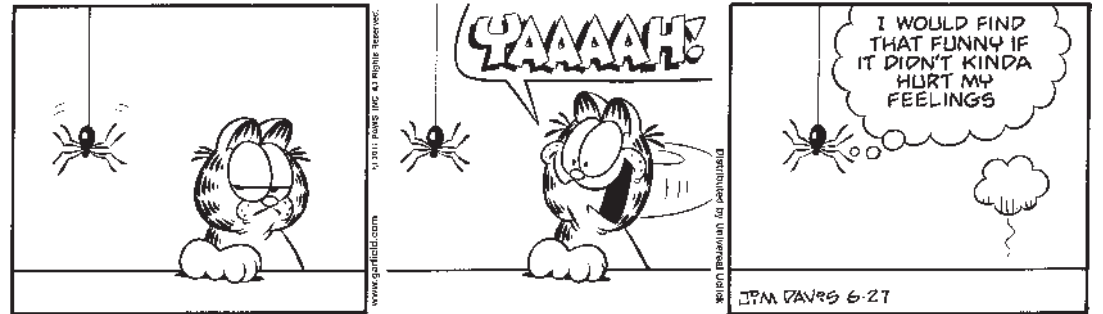
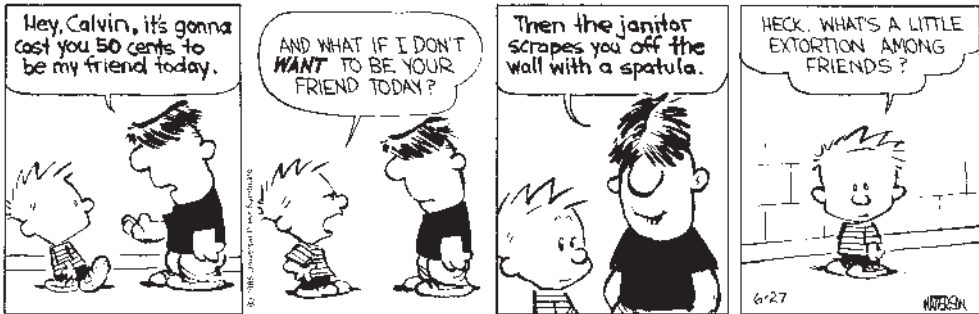
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

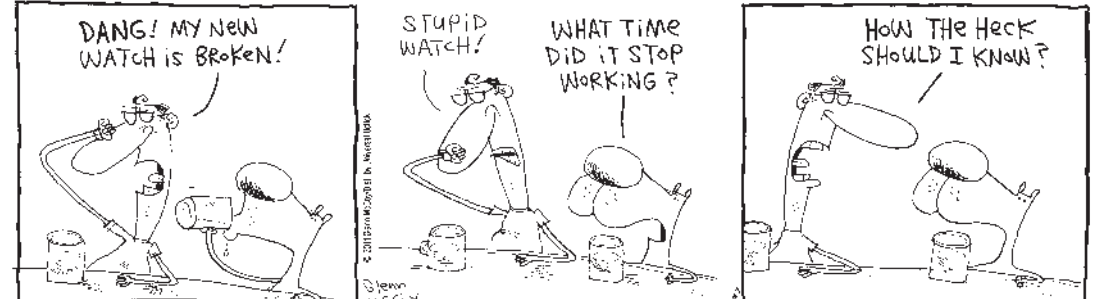


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Forum garb
5 Life story, for short
8 Snake's tooth
12 Grand tale
13 Conclusion
14 Operatic rendition
15 Painter Chagall
16 Being philanthropic
18 Dull indifference
20 Soda-shop treat
21 Dire prophecy
23 Two fives
24 Try
28 Antelope's playmate
31 Meadow
32 Weary
34 Firmament
35 Departed
37 Check beneficiary

DOWN

1 Office timer
3 Colorful fish
3 Child without a Y chromosome
4 Give consent
5 2007 film featuring Seinfeld's voice
6 Hostel
7 Probability
8 Was obsequious
9 Sahara-like quality
10 1492 ship
11 "Eleni" author Nicholas
17 See 29-Down
19 Capricorn
22 Early periods
24 Right angle
25 Born
26 Jonquil's cousin
27 Fragrant wood
29 With 17-Down, supplement
30 Deli bread
33 Entrance
36 Matador
38 African nation
40 Carrot companion?
42 Disarray
43 Aware of
44 Let fall
46 "Heart and —"
47 List-ending abbr.
48 Depend (on)
50 First lady

Solution time: 24 mins.

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | O | A | D | S | L | O | O | S | E | R |
| M | U | D | P | I | E | I | O | D | I | N |
| P | R | O | P | E | R | S | H | E | R | D |
| H | U | R | L | V | O | T | F | E | S | T |
| O | U | R | A | C | A | I | V | I | S | E |
| B | R | I | T | N | E | S | P | E | A | R |
| I | N | C | H | S | I | E | L | E | N | A |
| H | O | T | N | A | G | S | | | | |
| A | B | A | S | I | G | N | H | I | L | T |
| M | O | R | G | A | N | | B | O | O | B |
| O | B | S | E | S | | | | | | |

Saturday's answer 6-27

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Madylin Sweeten, 20; Ed Westwick, 24; Drake Bell, 25; Tobey Maguire, 36

Happy Birthday: Don't be afraid to call in favors this year or to reconnect with people you lost touch with. Partnerships will be inviting and can lead to greater productivity and performance. Don't shy away from the unknown when you should be embracing every possibility that comes your way. Your numbers are 4, 6, 14, 21, 28, 37, 46

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Address the past so that you can move forward. Agitation will be a direct result of not following your heart, your dreams and your life goals. Not everyone will like your decisions but it's you who has to live with them. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't let the little things bother you. Keep things in perspective and do your best to enjoy friends and family. What you project will determine what you get back mentally, physically and emotionally. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Not everything will be as good as it sounds. Let charm and communication become your tickets to success. Put more effort into your personal needs and making self-improvements that will bring you greater wisdom and update your image. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You can count on your friends and peers for help. Taking a different approach will help bring about support and greater interest. Someone from your past who has something to contribute should be included. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Offer your services but don't let anyone take advantage of you professionally. Be careful not to take on more than you can handle. Concentrate on the projects that you feel are worthwhile and which show off your talents. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): It's idle time or trying to do the impossible that will hold you back. Give someone a nudge if it will help you get things moving. Social networking will pay off. People you encounter now will help you in the future. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You can make a strategic move that will benefit you for years to come. Learning or making a move from one location to another will play in your favor. By jumping in and getting things started, you will make a statement that will help you win favors. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't be fooled by the price someone gives you for a job or contract. You'll be quick to change your mind or revert back to something that you feel safe using as a guideline. Emotions will escalate but, in the end, you will get what you want. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Follow your heart and you'll find satisfaction in the changes you make. Taking the initiative in a relationship will bring you greater control. Set your goals high but be reasonable about what you can achieve before you make someone a promise. ★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You can sort through a lot of personal prob-

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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lems by discussing your choices and the direction you want to follow. Getting the support you need will ease your stress and help you make required moves. Socializing will broaden the possibilities. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Emotional matters can stand in your way. Don't limit the possibilities because someone is asking you to take on a responsibility that doesn't belong to you. Instead, expand your knowledge and your friendships with people with similar interests. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Your past experience can help you a lot now. Don't make the same mistake with someone who can alter your life. Be willing to take a back seat if it will help you get ahead. You don't always have to be the one in control. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are a compassionate and perceptive partner. You strive to reach your goals and are organized and practical.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | | 7 | | | | 8 | | 5 |
| 6 | | | | 7 | | | | 3 |
| | | 8 | 2 | | 9 | 1 | | |
| | 1 | 2 | | | | 4 | 3 | |
| | 7 | | | 3 | | | 8 | |
| | 5 | 3 | | | | 7 | 2 | |
| | | 4 | 3 | | 1 | 9 | | |
| 2 | | | | 6 | | | | 4 |
| 7 | | 9 | | | | 6 | | 2 |

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 9 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 1 |
| 1 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 2 |
| 8 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 9 |
| 9 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 4 |
| 7 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 5 |
| 2 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 6 |
| 3 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 9 | 8 |
| 4 | 8 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 7 |
| 6 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 3 |

Difficulty Level ★

6/27

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY**. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

FREE TRIAL OFFERS

Solution: 9 letters

S F A P U R P O S E M A G G S
P U R C H A S E S A V E R H T
R R P E C O U P O N S A O O R
O N O P T E T H S U N E Y S O
V I O M L U S O E T S S B E P
I T M I O E P S S A V I N G S
D U E L S T M M O T L S P A T
E R M E Y I I E O R C T O K C
R E B A T E V O N C I F H C U
S T E R I H L E N T F E S A D
I I R N R S H R L E S O S P O
G S S L U A I T R E W R O B R
N B H A C C O U N T T S E D P
U E I E E N I L N O A R T S E
P W P D S E Q U I P M E N T U

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Last Saturday's Answer: Mowed

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STUMPED?

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Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Night-time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

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Saipan Tribune

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Second Floor, D' Torres Building
Garapan, Saipan MP 96950
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Saipan MP 96950
Ph: 670-989-0627
Fax: 670-235-8070

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

| | |
|-------------------|-----------|
| In the Matter of: | Case No.: |
| DAVIS LOREN | 11-0107 |
| JOAB | NOTICE |
| Deceased | OF |
| | HEARING |

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that on the 19th day of July 2011, at 1:30 p.m., in the Courtroom of the Honorable Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja, there shall be a hearing to appoint Mr. Bill Bezzant as Administrator of the Estate of Davis Loren Joab, deceased.

If any person objects to this appointment they should appear at the above noted hearing and present their objection.

Any creditors of the decedent must make a claim against the Estate within 60 days of the date of this Notice or be barred from such thereafter.

Claims may be filed with the Law Office of Loren A. Sutton at the address in the letterhead, above or with the Superior Court Clerk's Office in Susupe, Saipan

Dated: 6/6/2011

/s/ Clerk of the Superior Court

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Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

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- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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Classified Ads

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.



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CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB11-DPH-100 (A-C)**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: JULY 08, 2011 • TIME: 9:30 A.M.

“PURCHASE OF SIX (6) DESKTOP COMPUTERS, ONE (1) LAPTOP COMPUTER AND ONE (1) PROJECTOR FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH”

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THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT

/S/ JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ
SECRETARY OF HEALTH

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S





**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP11-CDA-04**

SUBMISSION: Wednesday, July 20, 2011 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

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/S/ MANUEL A. SABLAN
Executive Director, CDA

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S






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Mexico rallies to beat US in Gold Cup final



PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—Pablo Barrera scored two goals and Mexico rallied to beat the United States 4-2 in the CONCACAF Gold Cup final on Saturday night at the Rose Bowl.

Andres Guardado and Giovanni Dos Santos also scored for Mexico, which has won two consecutive Gold Cup titles and six overall. The victory puts El Tri in the 2013 FIFA Confederations Cup, a preview of the 2014 World Cup.

Mexico's Javier Hernandez, who led this year's Gold Cup with seven goals, was the tournament's most valuable player. Hernandez scored 20 goals for Manchester United during England's recently completed Premier League season.

Michael Bradley and Landon Donovan scored to help the United States build a 2-0 lead. Donovan became the Gold Cup's all-time leading scorer with 13 goals.

Barrera put Mexico ahead to stay in the 50th minute, slipping a 10-yard shot underneath the right hand of diving



Members of Mexico soccer team celebrate their 4-2 win against the United States in the CONCACAF Gold Cup soccer final at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif., Saturday, June 25, 2011.

goalkeeper Tim Howard and inside the left post.

The United States got off to a fast start but Mexico got

back in the game with two goals during an impressive seven-minute stretch.

Barrera scored his first goal

on a 17-yard shot inside the right post in the 29th minute, snapping Howard's Gold Cup shutout streak at 351 minutes.

Then in the 36th minute, Dos Santos's pass from the right side of the penalty area deflected off defender Eric Lichaj and toward

Howard. Guardado pounced on the ball and poked it in from five yards, tying it at 2.

Guardado played on a slightly sprained left ankle. He was injured during Mexico's 2-0 semifinal victory over Honduras on Wednesday.

Dos Santos ended the scoring in the 76th minute by lofting a 17-yard shot that Lichaj failed to head away from an open net at the left post.

The announced attendance of 93,420 was the largest for a Gold Cup game in the United States, but the crowd was decidedly in Mexico's corner.

The Americans responded with an early burst. Bradley put the U.S. ahead in the eighth minute with a 10-yard header off Freddy Adu's corner kick.

Donovan's 11-yard shot inside the left post made it 2-0 in the 23rd minute. Clint Dempsey's pass between two defenders freed Donovan for a breakaway.

Defender Steve Cherundolo, who had played every minute of the Gold Cup for the United States, sprained his left ankle and left in the 11th minute.

Two of Mexico's defenders, Carlos Salcido and Rafael Marquez, also left in the first half because of injury.

No new proposal from players at NBA labor meeting



NEW YORK (AP)—With their turn, the players passed.

NBA players declined to present a new economic proposal to owners Friday, less than a week before the expiration of the collective bargaining agreement.

Dressed in matching T-shirts urging solidarity, about 40 players attended the negotiating session, the final one before owners could vote on whether to lock them out if no deal is reached. But once there, they decided not to make any move to close the distance between the sides' financial positions.

"There's still such a large gap, we feel that any move for us is real dollars we'd be giving back from where we currently stand, as opposed to where our owners have proposed numbers that in our estimation don't exist right now," union president Derek Fisher of the Lakers said. "They're asking us to go to a place where they want us to go, so we've expressed our reasons why we don't want to continue to move economically."

The sides aren't scheduled to meet again until Wednesday or Thursday, hours before the June 30 expiration date.

The owners could make their next move by then, voting to authorize a lockout when they meet Tuesday in Dallas. Deputy Commissioner Adam Silver, the NBA's lead negotiator, said it would be "premature to talk about where we're going to find

ourselves next week."

Billy Hunter, the union's executive director, said there was enough good dialogue between owners and his expanded contingent of players that any lockout action may be unnecessary.

"I think that the nature of the discussion today was such that they may find it difficult to pull the trigger," Hunter said. "Even though we didn't make any progress, maybe they felt that the energy and the attitude in the room was such that it might necessitate further discussion."

The union's negotiating committee was joined by Boston's Kevin Garnett and Paul Pierce - who both spoke in the meeting - Jason Terry of the NBA champion Dallas Mavericks, and a number of other players in town for player representative meetings. Hunter said he was told late Thursday night that the players had decided to attend Friday's session.

They arrived at a midtown hotel in gray T-shirts reading "STAND," which Hunter said was the players' message of "solidarity."

Commissioner David Stern said the shirts were "nicely done," adding it was "great to have so many players in the room."

"We were hoping that more players would come and we were actually cheered by the fact that they were there," Stern said.

But he was disappointed by what they didn't say.

Owners had hoped for an-

other proposal from the union, but players felt they had gone far enough after they offered a \$500 million reduction in salaries over five years on Tuesday, a move Stern termed "modest."

"Why did we not make one? Because we felt that the one that we made previously was sufficient," Hunter said.

Stern wouldn't comment on the absence of an offer, or much else from the meeting. After months of offering little specifics about the negotiations, both sides went on the record with details of their proposals this week and took shots at the other over their characterizations of them.

Stern said he felt it appropriate to reveal information about the league's salary cap proposal on Tuesday, but said the relative silence after Friday's session was because "rhetoric is not helpful if it's incendiary and we're not interested in incendiary rhetoric on either side."

They decided not to meet again until after the Board of Governors meeting in Dallas, where owners will be briefed on the state of collective bargaining negotiations and plans for expanded revenue sharing. The union speculated that the lockout authorization vote would take place, but Stern wouldn't comment.

"We're going down to the Tuesday meeting and what will be will be," Stern said. "The one thing we don't want is a lockout. We have told the players that."

They could impose one any-

way if the talks back in New York go nowhere, and Stern indicated that could be done even without a vote beforehand.

"We can do whatever we need to do whenever we need to do it, however we need to do it," he said. "It's not about the formality of a

NFL players hold phone updates on lockout



NEW YORK (AP)—Buffalo safety George Wilson likes what he sees and hears

about the players' recent discussions with the owners to end the lockout. The Bills' player representative also cautions against getting swept away by expectations of an imminent settlement.

"We're definitely optimistic we're moving in the right direction," Wilson told The Associated Press on Saturday. "Right now we feel like we're having meaningful discussions. ... We feel we have the right people in the room, discussing the right things and both sides want to get a deal done. But even though we're moving in the right direction, we're not there yet."

Wilson said conference calls held in the last two days mark the first time in a while players have been briefed on a lockout that is in its fourth month.

"That's because there haven't been any developments the last little while," he said.

The players also were told more updates will come next week, when Commissioner Roger Goodell, NFLPA executive director DeMaurice Smith, several owners and

players are to meet again at an undisclosed location.

"There's definitely going to be talks every week because time is of the essence," Wilson said.

One person with knowledge of the discussions told the AP "not much progress" was made in the fourth round of recent meetings, in Hull, Mass. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the negotiations are supposed to be confidential.

The key issue is how to divide revenues - the league took in about \$9.3 billion last year. One person familiar with the owners' proposal told the AP on Tuesday that the players' share would approach the 50 percent the NFLPA has said it has received throughout the last decade. But the expense credits - about \$1 billion last year - that the league takes off the top would disappear.

Also, there would no longer be "designated revenues" from which the players would share. Instead, the players would share from the entire pool of income, which both sides project will grow significantly over the course of a new CBA. If the players are taking 48 percent of a much higher revenue stream, for example, and there is not

meeting, but for us the time best spent, the best time we're going to spend next week hopefully, is on the meetings with the players on Wednesday that with any luck goes over to Thursday, and that's where we are."

initial NFL deduction for operating expenses, the players still would receive far more money than they got under the previous agreement.

A salary floor requiring teams to spend within 90 percent of the cap in cash also would be included. The players have been concerned that some teams whose revenue streams don't match up with the richer clubs would try to hold down salary spending.

Players also were updated on the conference calls about discussions of a rookie wage scale; parameters for free agency; health benefits for current and retired players; and the salary cap.

"The CBA is far from just a percentage of revenue," Wilson said. "There's so much more."

Training camps are scheduled to open in about one month. The Ravens and Jets said they will remain at their in-season facilities rather than head out of town. Baltimore won't go to Winchester, Md., and New York won't go to Cortland, N.Y.

The first preseason game, Chicago vs. St. Louis, is Aug. 7 at the Pro Football Hall of Fame inductions in Canton, Ohio.

Serena leads past champs into 4th round



WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — Serena Williams has been known

to say she isn't satisfied with this or that aspect of her game, even after easily winning a match, say, 6-3, 6-2.

So it was somehow refreshing to hear Williams actually praise herself after a victory by that very score over 26th-seeded Maria Kirilenko at Wimbledon on Saturday.

Yes, only five matches since returning to the tour after nearly a full year off because of a series of health scares, Williams produced a performance worthy of the 13-time Grand Slam champion that she is. And then Williams talked the talk of someone finally ready to concede that British bookmakers might very well have been right to make her the pre-tournament favorite.

Asked whether she was surprised by the odds, the seventh-seeded American smiled widely and said: "I wouldn't bet against me."

After hitting 10 aces and compiling a 32-9 edge in winners against Kirilenko, Williams termed the showing her "best I've played since I came back."

"I was a little more consistent, and I played my game more," said Williams, trying to become the first woman since Steffi Graf in 1991-93 to win three consecutive Wimbledon titles. "Wasn't as tight and nervous and uptight. I was able to relax more today."

She was part of a parade of past champions who breezed into the fourth round Saturday, joined by Roger Federer, Rafael



Serena Williams of the US celebrates a point during the match against Russia's Maria Kirilenko at the All England Lawn Tennis Championships at Wimbledon, Saturday, June 25, 2011.

Nadal and Maria Sharapova, who all were straight-set winners, too. Top-seeded Caroline Wozniacki, seeking her first Grand Slam title, and two-time Australian Open champion Novak Djokovic, who is now 44-1 in 2011, also moved on.

There were two upsets of some significance.

Two-time French Open finalist Robin Soderling, who was seeded fifth, was dealing with stomach problems and bowed out meekly against 158th-ranked qualifier Bernard Tomic of Australia 6-1, 6-4, 7-5. Tomic is the first 18-year-old to reach the men's fourth round at Wimbledon since Michael Chang and Goran Ivanisevic in 1990.

"I was very calm, but inside I was bursting. I tried not to show it to him. He was getting a bit frustrated," Tomic said. "The way I've been playing is really good. If I can keep it up like this, who knows?"

No. 9 Gael Monfils lost to 93rd-ranked qualifier Lukasz Kubot of Poland 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 6-3. Kubot is the first man from Poland to make it this far at Wimbledon since Wojtek Fibak in 1981.

Wimbledon is the only Grand Slam tennis tournament that schedules a day off on the middle Sunday—and the only one that puts all 16 men's and women's fourth-round matches on the second Monday. When play resumes, these are some of the men's matchups: No. 1 Nadal vs. No. 24 Juan Martin del Potro, the 2009 U.S. Open champion; No. 2 Djokovic vs. No. 19 Michael Llodra; No. 3 Federer vs. No. 18 Mikhail Youzhny; No. 4 Andy Murray vs. No. 17 Richard Gasquet;

and No. 10 Mardy Fish, the last U.S. man left, vs. No. 6 Tomas Berdych, the 2010 Wimbledon runner-up.

Fish advanced Saturday when Robin Haase retired in the fourth set, while Berdych wrapped up a rain-suspended victory over Alex Bogomolov Jr. of the United States.

"It's lonely," said Fish, who's been broken only once in three matches.

Djokovic trashed his racket during a 6-4, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 victory over 2006 Australian Open finalist Marcos Baghdatis in the day's last match on Centre Court.

"Look, I'm not going to change who I am. I can work on some things, but, you know, my temper is my temper. My character is my character," said Djokovic, whose 43-match winning streak ended with a loss to Federer in the French Open semifinals.

With Baghdatis serving at 30-all while leading 4-3 in the second set, Djokovic pushed a shot long to lose the point. Standing at the baseline, he smashed his racket, hitting it once, twice, three times against the ground. As Djokovic walked to the sideline to trade in that now-damaged piece of equipment for a fresh one, Baghdatis chuckled to himself.

Chair umpire James Keothavong—brother of British player Anne Keothavong—was less amused, warning Djokovic for racket abuse. Baghdatis won the next point, too, to pull ahead 5-3, and he served out the set with an ace two games later.

But Djokovic pulled through, even as he occasionally paused to clutch at his left leg.

"I'm not tired physically. I

just didn't feel good today. ... My legs weren't working. You have those days," Djokovic said. "Luckily for me, when I needed to, I played well."

Nadal also acknowledged being slightly bothered a muscle problem in his right leg during a 7-6 (6), 7-6 (5), 6-0 win over Gilles Muller of Luxembourg—the last man other than Federer to beat the Spaniard at Wimbledon. Nadal made a total of three unforced errors - and 30 winners—against Muller, who eliminated him in the second round in 2005.

Since then, Nadal is 29-2 at the grass-court Grand Slam tournament, losing to Federer in the 2006 and 2007 finals, then winning the titles in 2008 and 2010. Nadal skipped Wimbledon in 2009 because of tendinitis in his knees; he made clear Saturday his knees are fine now.

As for del Potro, a former top-five player who's seeded 24th as he works his way back from right wrist surgery that sidelined him most of last year, Nadal observed: "His level is much better than what the ranking says today."

The same goes for Williams, who is ranked only 25th. A few days after winning her fourth Wimbledon title last year, she cut both her feet on glass at a restaurant. On Monday, she'll face 2007 runner-up Marion Bartoli. Other fourth-round women's matches include Williams' older sister Venus vs. No. 32 Tsvetana Pironkova, who upset the five-time Wimbledon champion a year ago; Wozniacki vs. No. 24 Dominika Cibulkova; and Sharapova vs. No. 20 Peng Shuai.

Duda doubles help Mets to 14-5 victory at Texas



ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Lucas Duda matched a Mets record

with three doubles while going 4 for 5 with four RBIs and New York had season highs for runs and hits in a 14-5 victory over the Texas Rangers in interleague play on Saturday.

The Mets led 3-0 after four batters against Alexi Ogando (7-3), who lost his third consecutive start without making it past the fifth inning.

Jonathon Niese (7-6) struck out seven in 5 2-3 innings and limited Texas to two runs on consecutive homers by Adrian Beltre and Michael Young in the fourth.

Yankees 8, Rockies 3

In New York, CC Sabathia tossed eight stingy innings to win for the seventh time in his last eight starts and Alex Rodriguez drove in three runs as the New York Yankees beat Colorado.

A dozen pitchers began the day with nine wins, but Sabathia (10-4) became the first to

reach double digits.

Angels 6, Dodgers 1

In Los Angeles, Tyler Chatwood pitched seven strong innings and Mark Trumbo and Vernon Wells each homered as the Angels defeated the Dodgers for their second straight win in the Freeway Series.

The Angels are 10-3 in their last 13 games at Dodger Stadium.

White Sox 3, Nationals 0

In Chicago, Jake Peavy threw four dominant innings in his first career relief appearance as the White Sox beat Washington.

Peavy (4-1) gave up a hit and struck out seven, combining with starter John Danks, Brian Bruney and closer Sergio Santos on a two-hitter.

Giants 1, Indians 0

In San Francisco, Tony Sipp balked home the go-ahead run with the bases loaded in the seventh inning to give the Giants their fourth straight victory.

Sipp flinched his left arm

before throwing a pitch to Emmanuel Burriss, allowing Miguel Tejada to score from third.

Tigers 6, Diamondbacks 0

In Detroit, Justin Verlander struck out a career-high 14 in his latest masterful performance, and the Detroit Tigers beat the Arizona Diamondbacks 6-0 on Saturday night.

Verlander (10-3) allowed four hits over eight innings, and Alex Avila's three-run homer in the fourth broke the game open.

Marlins 4, Mariners 2

In Seattle, Chris Volstad drove in a run in an AL ballpark and pitched into the seventh inning to win for the first time since April.

In the game moved from Miami because of an upcoming concert at the Marlins' stadium, Volstad (3-7) batted for himself because the game was played under NL rules.

Braves 10, Padres 1

In San Diego, Jair Jurrjens

pitched six strong innings to become the first 10-game winner in the NL.

Dan Uggla hit a three-run homer and finished with four RBIs for Atlanta, which has won five of six and 12 of 17 overall.

Pirates 6, Red Sox 4

In Pittsburgh, Lyle Overbay hit a 3-run homer and the Pittsburgh Pirates spoiled Tim Wakefield's homecoming.

Jeff Karstens (5-4) pitched effectively into the seventh inning as the Pirates tied a season-high by posting their fourth straight victory to move two games above .500 at 39-37.

Reds 10, Orioles 5

In Baltimore, Joey Votto homered twice and drove in five runs, and the Cincinnati Reds won a long-ball duel that featured nine home runs.

Votto hit a three-run drive in the third inning and put Cincinnati ahead for good with a two-run shot in the fifth.

Athletics 4, Phillies 1

In Philadelphia, Trevor Cahill tossed three-hit ball into the eighth inning, and Adam Rosales homered.

Cahill and Phillies starter Cole Hamels had a nice and easy duel going in a game that breezed by until the Phillies rallied late. Cahill (8-5) won his second straight start after dropping five straight and spoiled Hamels' bid to win his 10th game.

Brewers 11, Twins 1

In Milwaukee, Prince Fielder hit one of Milwaukee's four homers to give him an NL-best 67 RBIs this season and the Brewers beat injury-riddled Minnesota after Delmon Young left on a stretcher.

Carlos Gomez, Yuniesky Betancourt and Corey Hart also went deep as the NL Central-leading Brewers won their sixth straight over Minnesota.

Royals 3, Cubs 2

In Kansas City, Chris Getz drove in the go-ahead run with two

outs in the eighth inning and Kansas City beat Chicago, snapping a season-high six game losing streak.

Getz's bouncer was deflected by pitcher Jeff Samardzija (5-4) to shortstop Starlin Castro, but his throw to first was late and Jeff Francoeur, who had walked, scored.

Rays 7, Astros 2

In Houston, B.J. Upton homered and drove in two runs to back up Wade Davis for Tampa Bay.

Evan Longoria and Casey Kotchman added two RBIs apiece for the Rays, who won their third straight. Upton had an RBI single in the third inning and homered for the second straight day.

Blue Jays 6, Cardinals 3

In St. Louis, Carlos Villanueva (5-1) worked six solid innings backed by Juan Rivera's three-run homer, the only hit in a five-run third.

Jaime Garcia (6-3) kept his home ERA at a minuscule 0.88 because four of the runs in Toronto's big inning were unearned due to third baseman Daniel Descalso's two-out throwing error.

HBO may air Pacquiao-Marquez fight

MANILA— Showtime has the inside track, but HBO may yet spring a surprise and make a solid bid to air the third fight of the Manny Pacquiao-Juan Manuel Marquez trilogy on Nov. 12.

After all, a Pacquiao headliner, regardless of the opponent, is a guaranteed blockbuster as proven by the pound-for-pound king's 147-pound clash with Shane Mosley on May 7.

Though perceived to be a mismatch after it was first announced, Pacquiao-Mosley raked in a lofty 1.3 million pay-per-view buys, worth about \$71 million, for Showtime, which was given the broadcast rights by fight promoter Top Rank over longtime



Manny Pacquiao, right, hits Juan Manuel Marquez during their first fight in 2004. The two fighters meet for the third time on Nov. 12.

partner HBO. As a result, Showtime enjoys the right of first refusal in Pacquiao-Marquez III. Kevin Iole of Yahoo Sports tweeted that Top Rank chief

Bob Arum will meet with Showtime executives today to receive its initial offer. If CBS throws its full support behind Showtime in the endeavor, then HBO will need to use its persuasive powers and shell out more money to reclaim the broadcast rights. Pacquiao's fights have generated an average of more than a million buys for HBO. His fight with Oscar De La Hoya raked in 1.25 million PPV buys, Ricky Hatton (850,000), Miguel Cotto (1.25 million), Joshua Clottey (700,000) and Antonio Margarito (1.15 million). Showtime showed a viewer base larger than HBO's after Pacquiao's fight with Mosley exceeded these PPV figures. **(PDI)**

UFO caging meeting tomorrow

The United Filipino Organization Basketball League has scheduled a meeting tomorrow at 6pm at the Civic Center Filcom Pavilion in Susupe.

The final acceptance of teams and preparations for the opening ceremony will be discussed at meeting. Organizers will also decide the criteria for the Best Muse and Best Uniform awards. Payment of entry fees, submission of team rosters, and waiver forms are also due that day. The UFO Inter-Organization Basketball Friend-

ship League has three three more slots available, as only defending champion Mafea, Visminda, Cabalen, SIP, Bayani, MDX Amateur Radio Club, and Northern Marianas Bartenders Association have committed to join the competition.

The 2001 season of the UFO caging is scheduled to kick off at 2pm on July 10 at the TSL Sports Complex in Gualo Rai. Games will be played every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, starting at 6pm.

For more information, contact Bong Malasarte at 287-5525 or email at bong@malasarte.com **(PR)**

SAKUDI

From Page 28

"We have been a group for nine years now and have come in second place in a number of local leagues for the past five years," Man Amigos coach Joey Dela Cruz.

Dela Cruz added he, Vinny Sablan and Jeff Cabrera have been Man Amigos members since day one. The trio then experimented with a number of different players year after year and finally found the right mix to clinch its first title.

"Hats off to Natibu for playing lights out all season long, but we wanted it really bad and worked so hard... it just feels really good to finally get our first championship," Dela Cruz said.

Man Amigos finished second to Natibu in CSA's maiden season last year.

Other Man Amigos members include eventual Finals MVP Roy Celis, Julian Cama-

cho, John Terlaje, Jerry Ayuyu, Manny Sablan, Jess Guerrero, Mel Tenorio, Joe Torres, Mike Sablan, James Fleming, Eric Palacios, Carl Hocog, Peter Sablan, Ben Tagabuel, and Saipan Mayor Donald Flores.

As for Sakudi, it dominated the women's field all year long and was also fortunate enough to meet Check It Out instead of heavy-second favorite Enamo Meta in the finals.

Sakudi is composed of Finals MVP Bert Camacho, Liz Lebria, Rachel Salalila, Erlinda Naputi, Pauline Camacho, Popo Tudela, Lillian Aguon, Thelma Mizer, Tani Masga, Jenny Palacios, Lenise Kapileo, Tiana Muna, Liz Palacios-Olouachel, Eileen Babauta, Juanette Atalig, Bego Camacho, Shirley Taitano, and Geraldine Songao.

Sakudi jumped out to an early 7-0 lead in the first inning off four hits, two walks, and an error. Check It Out left a runner at first base in the bottom frame. Then Sakudi added a run off an

RBI single by Lebria in the top of the second inning.

Check It Out managed a pair of runs off an error and a fielder's choice in the bottom half, but Sakudi shot ahead, 15-2, in the top of the third off five hits, two fielders' choices, and a two-run inside the park home run by Bert Camacho. Salalila also bagged an RBI single in the mix. Sakudi never looked back from thereon.

In the deciding Game 2 of the men's finals, Man Amigos took a 2-0 lead in the first inning off a two-run shot by Ayuyu. Man Amigos stuffed Natibu again in the second inning and Celis, Peter Sablan, and Julian Camacho led off the bottom frame with a trio of solo shots before the team set up a three-run bomb by Palacios for an 8-0 advantage.

Then Ken Kalen finally put Natibu on the board with a solo homer to start the third. Man Amigos drew a blank in the bottom half. Natibu briefly halved the deficit, 4-8, in the fourth off a two-run homer by Jerry

Guerrero and a sacrifice fly by Jun Saralu, but Man Amigos answered with five runs in the bottom frame.

Man Amigos' runs came off four hits and three errors. Natibu managed three runs in the fifth, as Kalen hit a double and later stole home before J.R. Suel busted a two-run shot. Man Amigos went 1-2-3 in the bottom frame.

Then Natibu ignited a late rally and pulled ahead, 15-13, in the sixth off a leadoff homer by BJ Sablan, an RBI smash by Pete Teigita, a two-run blast by Kalen, and a clutch three-run homer by Jerome Delos Santos.

However, Man-Amigos shrugged it off and reclaimed the lead, 22-15, in the bottom frame. Palacios and Ayuyu each hammered two-run shots, Celis drilled an RBI double, Hocog looped a sac-fly, and the other runs came off three hits and an error. Natibu postured again in its final stand, but came up a run short of forcing an extra inning.

SANTOS

From Page 28

quick to return Bandoja's good ball placement and withstood his ground against the latter's power hits. Santos escaped with a 21-18 victory in the second set and completed the come-from-behind win with a 21-19 triumph in the deciding third set.

Four other title matches were played on Saturday night.

In the women's C singles finals, Kim Boranah swept Irish Pagarao, 21-9, 21-12. Boranah advanced to the title match after beating Roma Barlaio in the semis, while Pagarao prevailed over Cris Obaldo in the other Final Four pairing.

In the men's C doubles finals, the tandem of Jerome Malasarte and Brandon Talania also needed

only two sets to beat Dick Kho and Joel Ortega, 21-15, 21-19.

Clinching a doubles title too were Andrew Galvez and Rod-wealth Espana, who stunned Narlou Achas and Dick Guintu in the men's A doubles finals in straight sets, 21-11, 21-10. Galvez and Espana and Achas and Guintu arranged their title duel after downing Bandoja and Oh Inbog and Hapi Gabriel and Ezekiel Macario in the semifinals, respectively.

In the third singles finale of the night, Michelle Caleon went the distance to slip past Marylyn Montano in the women's B singles title game, 21-17, 15-21, 21-19.

The remaining championship matches were played last night and results will be published in *Saipan Tribune's* Tuesday edition.

ARMATECH

From Page 28

drelon and Bruce Berline combined for 13 markers to give Armatech a 19-17 cushion after 10 minutes of play.

In the second canto, it was Bernardo Montano's turn to contribute to Armatech's cause, as he delivered eight points off the bench. With Montano making it to the

scoreboard in the second period, Armatech built a double-digit lead at halftime, 43-33.

Armatech did not look back in the second half and even maintained a double-digit lead by the end of the third period. 57-46. Gabaldon added two more three balls in the third frame to keep Armatech's distance.

Then in the final quarter, Armatech strategically milked the clock and later made six free throws to seal the win.

Esdrelon and Gabaldon combined for 36 points, while Soul Jazz's Freddie Pelisamen and Gyles Ruloked tallied 15 points apiece.

Gabaldon was later awarded the Final MVP trophy, while Peter Crisostomo of Armatech took the Best Coach award.

The Mythical Five were also named after the title game and making it to the elite list were Berline and Esdrelon, Ruloked, and Saipan World Re-

sort's Dennis Vinas and Banjo Basila. World Resort took the third place trophy after a no-show from Cargo Express- Sea Bridge in the consolation match before the finals.

Armatech 78 – Esdrelon 19, Gabaldon 17, Berline 14, De Vero 14, Montano 10, Rebuyon 4.

Soul Jazz 66 – Pelisamen 15, Ruloked 15, Je. Mina 10, Inos 9, Aquino 6, Jr. Mina 6, Johanes 5.

Scoring by quarters: 19-17, 43-33, 57-46, 78-66.

CNMI

From Page 28

sweep of the MBT after downing Palau, 89-78. In the battle for third place, the CNMI bowed to Guahan (Guam's second team), 49-63. Palau took the bronze in the girls division after topping sister team Belau in the consolation game, 56-19.

After the awarding of medals to the Top 3 finishers in each

division, host Palau Basketball Federation also selected the All-Star Five in the girls and boys categories.

Christian Mizer, who scored 16 points in the third place game against Guahan and had his best offensive performance against Palau after exploding for 22 points in their 53-74 loss to the host, was included in the All-Star Selection. Joining him are Palau's Marvic Ngchar, Guahan's Dialo Cruz, Guam's Jeddou Antonio,

and Belau's Medermel Yaoch.

In the girls division, the CNMI's Rachel Abrams made the elite list, which also includes Palau's Sarabeth Ksano and Diliaur Kumaichi, Guam's Kali Benavente, and Belau's Trinity Misech. Abrams scored in double figures in the CNMI's last three games, including a 27-point production in their 76-18 rout of Belau.

Abrams was one of the only nine female players the CNMI

sent to Palau to compete in the youth caging. Others on the list were Jeraldine Castillo, Kaylani Lebria, Denise Samson, Kyla Ito, Kriz Gozon, Melody Johnson, Carey Demapan, and Theodora Falcon.

The CNMI had an even leaner boys U15 squad, as coach Ed Manalili had only seven players in Mizer, Jaymie Sanarez, Ankie Manalili, Josephus Aguilar, Jacob Palacios, Christopher Cepeda, and Kobe Mendoza.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

| MLB STANDINGS | | | | | Central Division | | | | |
|------------------|----|----|------|--------|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| AMERICAN LEAGUE | | | | | Milwaukee | | | | |
| East Division | | | | | St. Louis | | | | |
| | W | L | Pct | GB | Pittsburgh | | | | |
| New York | 44 | 31 | .587 | — | Cincinnati | | | | |
| Boston | 44 | 32 | .579 | 1/2 | Chicago | | | | |
| Tampa Bay | 43 | 34 | .558 | 2 | Houston | | | | |
| Toronto | 38 | 39 | .494 | 7 | West Division | | | | |
| Baltimore | 34 | 40 | .459 | 9 1/2 | San Francisco | | | | |
| Central Division | | | | | Arizona | | | | |
| Cleveland | 40 | 35 | .533 | — | Colorado | | | | |
| Detroit | 41 | 36 | .532 | — | Los Angeles | | | | |
| Minnesota | 32 | 43 | .427 | 8 1/2 | San Diego | | | | |
| Kansas City | 32 | 45 | .416 | 9 | Yesterday's Games | | | | |
| West Division | | | | | N.Y. Yankees 8, Colorado 3 | | | | |
| Texas | 41 | 37 | .526 | — | San Francisco 1, Cleveland 0 | | | | |
| Los Angeles | 39 | 39 | .500 | 2 | L.A. Angels 6, L.A. Dodgers 1 | | | | |
| Seattle | 38 | 39 | .494 | 2 1/2 | N.Y. Mets 14, Texas 5 | | | | |
| Oakland | 35 | 43 | .449 | 6 | Chicago White Sox 3, Washington 0 | | | | |
| NATIONAL LEAGUE | | | | | Detroit 6, Arizona 0 | | | | |
| East Division | | | | | Pittsburgh 6, Boston 4 | | | | |
| Philadelphia | 48 | 30 | .615 | — | Cincinnati 10, Baltimore 5 | | | | |
| Atlanta | 44 | 34 | .564 | 4 | Oakland 4, Philadelphia 1 | | | | |
| Washington | 39 | 38 | .506 | 8 1/2 | Tampa Bay 7, Houston 2 | | | | |
| New York | 38 | 39 | .494 | 9 1/2 | Kansas City 3, Chicago Cubs 2 | | | | |
| Florida | 34 | 43 | .442 | 13 1/2 | Milwaukee 11, Minnesota 1 | | | | |
| | | | | | Toronto 6, St. Louis 3 | | | | |
| | | | | | Florida 4, Seattle 2 | | | | |
| | | | | | BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS | | | | |

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

Last week was crunch time for teams as their respective competitions reached the playoff round.

In basketball, the Miller Lite caging played at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court had its Final Four cast and that included Armatech, Soul Jazz, Cargo Express, and Saipan World Resort. Armatech went on to beat Soul Jazz in the finals last Saturday.

Over at the Garapan Basketball Court, QQ Cup also had its semis cast completed with Smart Cagers, Konflikt, Mobil, and the Sonics making it to the next round. Friday's semis games were rained-out.

In softball at the Capital Hill Ballfield, Sakudi and Check It Out marched into the women's title game, while Man Amigos and Natibu arranged a finals tiff in the men's division.

In the IT&E badminton tournament at the TSL Sports Complex, the singles and doubles competitions were also in the playoff round and championship games were played over the weekend.

In other big events last week, the CNMI competed in the 2011 U15 Micronesian Basketball Tournament in Palau and the 2011 Oceania Regional Championships in Apia, Samoa. Tsunami Saipan dominated the Saipan International Open Water Flipper Race, Trench Tech had its Trench Warz 14: Ground Zero, and junior tennis player Thea Minor joined an ITF event.

The Commonwealth made it to the finals of the girls division of MBT, while the CNMI finished fourth in the boys division.

In Samoa, sprinter Yvonne Bennett set new marks in the 100m and 200m races.

Tsunami Saipan also marked a record at Flipper after Ken-

suke Kimura took the No. 1 overall spot in the race around Managaha Island. It was the third straight time that the top finisher in the race came from Tsunami Saipan.

In Trench Warz 14, Saipan fighter had mixed results in the last two bouts as Trench Tech Fasi "Quickdraw" Jesse won over Guam's Tyrone Jones of Underworld Extreme and Giovanni "Palaxi" Sablan bowed to Mark "Mugen" Striegl of Tokyo Japan's Wajutsu Keishukai Gods.

Minor also dropped her Junior ITF debut, losing to New Zealand's Danielle Feneridis in the 2011 Open Junior BNP Paribas of New Caledonia in Noumea.

Playoff games galore



► Konflikt's Bon Tamayo pulls up for a jumper against Blue Haus during their playoff game in the QQ Cup last week at the Garapan Basketball Court.

WALTER SUTHERLAND

◀ Gary Bandoja stretches for a return against Noli Santos during their men's B1 singles title game in the IT&E badminton tournament last Saturday at the TSL Sports Complex.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

From left, Cassidy-Fanui boat captain Mark Artero, team captain Ray Flores, and fishermen Carl Dela Cruz and Mike Cassidy smile after accepting the MASC Spearfishing Tournament first place trophy and prize package during the awards ceremony held after the event at Smiling Cove Marina.

By **WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND**
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REPORTER



Spearfishing Club's 5th Annual Spearfishing Tournament held Saturday at Smiling Cove Marina.

Led by boat captain Mark Artero, Cassidy-Fanui had a total catch of 173.98 lbs.

Guam's Cassidy-Fanui topped nine teams in the Marianas Apnea

"The conditions were very rough, which made the diving

more difficult, but our guys were in the water at 7am this morning and we went non-stop until 3pm," said Artero, who has been participating in various fishing events on Saipan since the 1990s and his team's success validated his familiarity of the area.

KELVIN 'BIG HIT' FITIAL From People's Champ to PXC Champ

By **WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND**
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REPORTER



By winning the Pacific Xtreme Combat Championship heavy-weight title, Saipan pride Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial can now proclaim himself not only the people's champion but a world champion as well.

Fitial was crowned PXC champion after beating Roque Martinez of Guam via technical knockout in the main event of PXC 24 held last June 11 in Manila, Philippines.

It was the 12th win in 21 matches for the Marianas Elite founder and headliner. He also has six losses, two draws, and a no-contest in his mixed martial arts career.

One of the draws came against Martinez during their controversial fight last year, where Fitial dominated the

Guamanian most of the fight but wasn't able to come out with the clear-cut victory.

He didn't make that mistake in Manila in PXC 24 though, leaving everything on the mat from the opening bell and not allowing the judges to influence the fight whatsoever.

"I felt comfortable from the start, and my confidence grew even more after the first round. I remember my corner man Lionel (Borja) reminding me to keep my hands up," he said.

In Round 2, Fitial had some trouble against the defending champion. At one point he even conceded that Martinez had him right where he wanted him.

"I thought to myself this is his chance—if he doesn't take it now then I know I'm going to win. I heard Lionel yelling at me to get up and use my kicks and jabs, but Roque is a big guy. He was on top of me and wasn't going to let me up, so I had to



Fitial

hang tough until the bell."

And survive he did. As it turned out, Fitial playing possum in the second round allowed him to save energy for the all-important third round where the Saipan fighter sprang back to life and took the fight to the now exhausted Martinez.

"I actually saved some energy in the second round and stuck to

my stand-up game in the third. Our strategy really worked in the third round and you could see Roque was getting tired. Lionel knew it too and he told me to finish him off in the fourth. Roque swung for the fences at the start of the round, but I remained patient because I sensed weakness and could tell he was going to make a mistake."

Fitial didn't have to wait long for his chance to finish off Martinez as he pounced on him after the latter slipped.

"I took him down after he slipped and went for a choke hold at first, but man [Roque's] neck is huge and I thought there is no way I can choke this guy, so I pounded him from the top position until the referee pulled me off. After the referee called it I laid down on the mat and felt so good because—at that moment—I realized all of my hard work just paid off," he said.

Fitial said winning the PXC

heavyweight belt has always been his goal and now he does not really know what to do next. He also said he kept the PXC belt in its bag and did not even wear it until his feet touched ground on Saipan.

He expressed interest in traveling to China, Japan or Korea to compete for some heavy-weight titles in the region, but is currently focusing his training on his PXC title defense, where there are rumors that some Hawaiian contenders are interested in challenging him.

Fitial indeed has come a long way on the road to becoming an MMA champion. Not too long ago back in May of 2009, Fitial held an average record of 7-6 with one draw, however since then he has won five of his last six bouts.

"I learned a lot from my mistakes starting out. In my very first fight I didn't even know kicking was allowed. I didn't really know how to throw a kick, or even worse, how to defend one. I didn't even know much about wrestling either, but I know I'd rather have the top position," he smiled.

settled for fifth place. Shell fuel cards and Coca-Cola gift packages were presented to the fourth and fifth finishers.

Notably, Salty's was the youngest team in the field. Its member, 17-year old Kagman High School student David P. Lizama Jr. caught a 12.34-lb sweet lips fish to win the individual biggest catch award and a cooler from L50 Club. Salty's also won \$200 and \$30 Shell fuel card. Other members of the team are captain Ken Japan, Robert Norita and his 16-year-old brother, Manny.

Mar-Pac, Budweiser, Risse International, Docomo Pacific, Cressi Sub and Aquasmith sponsored the event that drew 26 fishermen.

Meanwhile, the 2011 Guam Spearfishing Challenge is set for August 13 at Guam's Agatna Marina with \$5,000 worth of prizes up for grabs in the annual tournament.

Fitial credits Saipan's Cuki Alvarez of Trench Tech Purebred Gym and the Carson Gracie Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Academy in Guam for helping him refine his grappling skills and wrestling defense tactics.

He also wants to study Muay Thai Kickboxing in the future. He admits that stand-up is his natural talent, but aims to evolve into a more well-rounded fighter.

"I have worked with Cuki for years and he has taught me a lot about the business both inside and outside the cage. It meant a lot to me when he made that People's Champ Belt for me after the first bout with Martinez because it helped assure myself that Saipan believes in me."

Fitial was also called to center stage during Trench Warz 14: Ground Zero last June 17 at the Saipan World Resort, where Alvarez formally congratulated him for his achievement.

The reigning PXC champion also has aspirations of expanding his Marianas Elite fight team and hopes to have initial developments of a training gym commencing by the end of the year.

Cassidy-Fanui wins
spearfishing tourney

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Mexico rallies to beat
US in Gold Cup final

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Sakudi, Man Amigos triumph



Sakudi members pose for a group photo after winning the CSA's 2nd Budweiser Slow-Pitch Softball League women's championship over Check It Out, 28-3, last Friday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Sakudi and Man Amigos were crowned champions in Chamolinian Softball Association's 2nd Annual Budweiser Slow-Pitch Softball League after downing separates foes Friday night at the Capital Hill Ballfield.



Sakudi routed Check It Out in Game 1 of the finals, 28-3, to win the women's championship early. Sakudi held a twice-to-beat advantage in the finals.

Sakudi routed Check It Out in Game 1 of the finals, 28-3, to win the women's championship early. Sakudi held a twice-to-beat advantage in the finals.



Man Amigos players celebrate after winning the CSA's 2nd Budweiser Slow-Pitch Softball League men's championship over Natibu last Friday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

In the men's division finals, top ranked Man Amigos recovered from a Game 1 loss (25-29) with a thrilling 22-21 Game 2 victory against Natibu to clinch its first championship in five years.

See SAKUDI on Page 26

Armatech wins Miller Lite championship

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REPORTER



Armatech secured the championship in the 5th Miller Lite

Friendly Invitational Basketball League after defeating Soul Jazz in the one-game finals, 78-66, on Saturday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Yosh Gabaldon saved his best for last, showing an A game in the most important match in the competition. The former CNMI Nationals member scored 17 points, making 15 of them from the three-point area and helping Elmer Esdreton carry the cudgels for Armatech.

Gabaldon drained two three-pointers in the first quarter, while his teammates Elmer Es-

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Armatech members hoist their trophies after beating Soul Jazz in the finals of the 5th Miller Lite Friendly Invitational Basketball League, 78-66, last Saturday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

CNMI cagebells settle for silver

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



The CNMI girls U15 team returned to Saipan yes-

terday morning and brought home a silver medal from the 2011 U15 Micronesian Basketball Tournament.

The Commonwealth cagebells played against Guam in the finals last Friday at the Palau National Stadium in Ko-

ror and lost the championship match, 41-93.

The Connie Camacho-coached squad kept pace with Guam in the first quarter, but things began falling apart for the CNMI bets in the second canto. Guam led by only seven

after 10 minutes of play, 24-17, before the eventual champion held the CNMI to six points in the second frame for a big 49-23 advantage.

Guam never looked back from thereon to win the girls championship.

Later in the men's championship match, Guam completed a

See CNMI on Page 26

Santos takes men's B1 singles crown

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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Noli Santos clinched the men's B1 singles championship in the 2011 IT&E Singles/Doubles Badminton Tournament after pulling off two upset wins over the weekend at the TSL Sports Complex.

Santos' first surprised victory came in the semifinals when he ousted Pool A top finisher Saul Gargallo last Friday, 19-21, 21-17, 21-18. Before his semis outing against Santos, Gargallo went unbeaten in four games in the elimination round. Santos had an even 2-2 card in the round-robin competition.

Next up for Santos was Gary Bandoja, who was also undefeated in pool play, sweep-

ing all his four matches in the elimination and extending the streak to five after outclassing Mario Diola in the semifinals.

In the championship match, Bandoja drew first blood, winning at 21-15 after capitalizing on his power hitting against Santos, who was a bit sluggish at the start of the match.

Santos officiated a women's singles finals before playing in his own title game and had no enough time to warm up for the Court 2 match. In contrast, Bandoja traded volleys and serves against Dick Guintu for several minutes at Court 3 while Santos was officiating.

In the second set, Santos must win to extend the finals and he did, as this time he was

See SANTOS on Page 26



Noli Santos returns a low ball from Gary Bandoja during the men's B1 singles title game in the IT&E badminton tournament last Saturday at the TSL Sports Complex.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO